

Essentials in Writing

Level 9

Second Edition

Assessment/Resource

Booklet

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Printed in the United States of America

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ASSESSMENT

Assessment 2 – Effective Sentence Structure (Lessons 8-16)

Students may use a thesaurus for this assessment if needed.

A. Circle the punctuation and mechanics errors in each passage. Correct the errors by rewriting the passage on the lines below.

1. One of my favorite quotes is from U.S. president Theodore Roosevelt, who once said “Comparison is the thief of joy. I try to live by this quote by appreciating every blessing in life.

2. adolescence is a pivotal time where teens discover who they are. They also begin spending more time with friends and Form connections beyond the family unit.

B. Identify whether each underlined item is a clause. If the item is a clause, write “Y” for “yes”; if the item is not a clause, write “N” for “no.”

- 1. Matt was confused about where the party was, so he cruised the streets slowly. _____
- 2. The temperature outside was freezing due to the freezing cold wind. _____
- 3. Everyone in the auditorium was filled with awe and clapped when the curtain closed. _____
- 4. In order to form quality friendships, one must have the qualities of a good friend. _____

C. For each sentence, underline the independent clauses, put [brackets] around the dependent clauses, and circle the subordinators.

- 1. When my mother graduated college, she worked for a nonprofit as a marketing coordinator.
- 2. Riley likes swimming competitively because she enjoys the thrill of competition.
- 3. After Landon finishes editing his short horror film, he will begin writing a mystery novel.

D. Underline all the noun phrases in each sentence below. Put [brackets] around any appositives.

- 1. Mirabelle Mason, an award-winning writer, wore a shimmering red silk dress at the Gala.
- 2. My brother, an accomplished pianist, will be performing at the concert tonight.

ASSESSMENT

2. Ariana wants to work in early childhood education. She will work at a daycare. She will also go to the University of Arizona to complete her coursework.

K. For each compound-complex sentence, insert commas where they need to go as necessary.

1. Everyone needs relationships because people are social creatures but they have different needs for their social life.

2. While reading books heightens one's cognitive abilities and critical thinking skills this activity also has many other benefits for it reduces stress and increases empathy.

L. Revise the passage below by adding transitions to move smoothly from sentence to sentence. Use different transitional words or phrases for each sentence. *Sometimes, you may have to revise or rearrange the sentences.*

People must practice different habits to support one's health. Going to the dentist and the doctor is a good start. It is only the bare minimum. People should eat nutritious meals and do some form of exercise. Everyone should make an effort to maintain healthy relationships and do enjoyable hobbies. Practicing these habits will lead to a long, satisfying life.

M. The paragraph below uses exclusively simple sentences. Revise the paragraph on the lines provided to use a variety of sentence structures.

Watching movies and TV shows are similar. They both tell stories. They are different in how the story is told. In a TV show, the story is depicted over multiple seasons. The producers can take time showing the plot and characters' journey. The story of a movie is shown in one film. Producers must be intentional about making it meaningful, cohesive, and entertaining.

Unit One Comprehensive Assessment (Lessons 2-24)

Circle the letter next to the correct answer.

1. Which of the following is *not* a correct way to correct the comma splice?
 - A. Make two separate simple sentences.
 - B. Create a compound sentence by adding an appropriate conjunction, or create a complex sentence by adding the right subordinator.
 - C. Create a compound sentence by changing the comma into a semi-colon.
 - D. Form two stand-alone dependent clauses.

2. A verbal is...
 - A. a verb that functions as a noun within a sentence.
 - B. a verb that functions as an adjective within a sentence.
 - C. a sentence that consists of an independent clause and a dependent clause.
 - D. a word formed from a verb that functions as a different part of speech.

3. Which of the following sentences contains a *gerund*?
 - A. *Making a budget is a life skill everyone should have.*
 - B. *I am travelling to Costa Rica for my cousin's destination beach wedding.*
 - C. *Mason and Marques will be participating in a study-abroad program in England.*
 - D. *Spaghetti and meatballs is a simple recipe that everyone should know how to make.*

4. A participial is a verbal that functions as a/an _____.
 - A. noun
 - B. adjective
 - C. verb
 - D. adverb

UNIT ONE COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

10. When finding and paraphrasing information, ask yourself if the source is...

- A. relevant, accurate, biased, and reliable.
- B. accurate, cohesive, correct, and engaging.
- C. interesting, thought-provoking, effective, and accurate.
- D. relevant, descriptive, detailed, and meaningful.

11. *Legos are the most fun toy. From young kids to adults, anyone can have lots of fun with Legos. People can build super interesting skyscrapers, beautiful castles, or really cool cars using Lego pieces. It feels good to put all the pieces together to make a really cool creation. Whether one is building with friends and family or by themselves, people can have lots of fun with Legos.*

What is the issue with this passage?

- A. Each sentence starts with the same word.
- B. All the sentences are simple sentences.
- C. The passage utilizes boring, repetitive language.
- D. The generic “you” is used.

12. Which sentence *does not* contain a verbal (gerund, participial, or infinitive)?

- A. *The house with the shattered windows was robbed last week by some college students.*
- B. *Even though public speaking can be nerve-wracking, it is a helpful skill to have.*
- C. *One of my goals is to visit every single national park in the United States.*
- D. *Maria and her group of friends are all going to Disney World this weekend.*

13. *Beauty is in the eye of the beholder; however; what most people find aesthetically pleasing is founded on objective principles, such as symmetry.*

What is the punctuation/mechanics error in the sentence above?

- A. A comma is missing in-between the two clauses.
- B. End punctuation is missing.
- C. The first word of the sentence is not capitalized.
- D. The semi-colon is in the wrong place.

UNIT ONE COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

19. *Yesterday, Aubrey dyed her dark brown hair a lovely ombré lavender color.*

What is underlined?

- A. Noun phrase
- B. Adjective phrase
- C. Verb phrase
- D. Adverbial phrase

20. In which sentence is an appositive underlined?

- A. *I have trained Goldie, my golden retriever puppy, to sit, stay, shake hands, and spin.*
- B. *Weddings are expensive, but couples can save money by creating homemade décor.*
- C. *General Sherman trees, the largest trees in the world, can be found in California.*
- D. *New York City has many nicknames, such as The Big Apple and The Melting Pot.*

21. Prepositional phrases modify nouns while adverbial phrases modify...

- A. verbs.
- B. adjectives and verbs.
- C. adjectives and adverbs.
- D. adjectives, adverbs, and verbs.

22. *The house on 5th street was condemned last week because it was in awful condition; the owner was a hoarder and neglected the property.*

What is the complete noun phrase in this sentence?

- A. *The house on 5th street*
- B. *condemned last week*
- C. *owner*
- D. *The house*

23. *Escape rooms are an exciting option for a group activity because they give friends the opportunity to build comradery by solving puzzles and overcoming challenges together.*

The sentence above is a ____ sentence, and the underlined portion is a ____ clause.

- A. compound; dependent
- B. complex; independent
- C. compound-complex; dependent
- D. complex; dependent

UNIT ONE COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

28. When punctuating a compound-complex sentence...

- A. use the same comma rules used for compound sentences and complex sentences.
- B. only put commas between two independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction.
- C. only apply the punctuation rules for complex sentences within the compound-complex sentence.
- D. do not use commas.

29. Which of the following is a compound-complex sentence?

- A. *Taylor Swift began her career as a country artist, but she eventually pivoted to producing pop music with the release of her 2012 album, Red.*
- B. *Even though I enjoy sunny days, I appreciate rainy days more because they provide the perfect cozy ambience for leisure activities such as watching old movies or reading mysteries.*
- C. *Fantasy is Isabella's favorite book genre because she can mentally escape from reality into a world full of magic, fantastic creatures, and epic adventures.*
- D. *Determining one's strengths (and weaknesses), priorities, and the kind of life one wants to live are all important factors in choosing a career path.*

30. Which of the following is *not* true about complex sentences?

- A. A complex sentence is an independent clause and a dependent clause joined by a subordinator.
- B. When the independent clause is before the dependent clause, put a comma between the two clauses.
- C. The dependent clause may come before the independent clause or after the independent clause.
- D. If the dependent clause is before the independent clause, put a comma between the two clauses.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment 4 – The Writing Process & Paragraphs (Lessons 25-35)

Circle the letter next to the correct answer.

1. Knowing the audience and purpose of writing is important because it helps you...
 - A. figure out what information will go into the paper and how you will write it.
 - B. move smoothly between thoughts and paragraphs within your paper.
 - C. come up with ideas for the details and examples you will include.
 - D. write clearly, concisely, and confidently.

2. Prompt: *Should children be required to go to school? Write a paragraph defending your point of view.*
What kind of composition should you write for this prompt?
 - A. Argumentative
 - B. Compare
 - C. Contrast
 - D. Expository

3. A student is writing an expository paragraph about why cooking is a beneficial skill that everyone should learn. Which of the following opening sentences would best begin this paragraph?
 - A. *Everyone should learn how to cook their meals at home.*
 - B. *Making meals at home prepares people for adulthood.*
 - C. *Home-cooked food is better than food at restaurants.*
 - D. *Cooking is one of the most important skills to learn.*

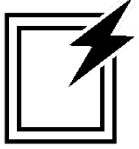
4. True or False: When choosing examples, make sure they are general and support the detail.
 - A. True
 - B. False

5. Which is *true* about the Writing Process?
 - A. The Writing Process includes the following steps: Brainstorm, Draft, Revise, and Finalize.
 - B. In the “Draft” step, one puts their ideas into writing and focuses on creating the perfect paper.
 - C. In the Revise step, one improves their writing in content, word choice, and sentence structure.
 - D. In the Organize step, one thinks of different topics to write about and picks one.

To complete the assessment, complete one of the paragraph writing prompts on the following page.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment 4 – Expository Paragraph



1. Read the **prompt**. Then, **brainstorm** your ideas on a clean sheet of paper.

↳ *Think about your favorite genre of music. Why is this genre of music enjoyable to listen to? Write a paragraph explaining your answer.*



2. **Plan** and **organize** your thoughts using a **graphic organizer**.
(Additional graphic organizers available in the *Assessment/Resource Booklet*.)



3. **Draft** your paragraph on a clean sheet of paper using the information in your plan.



4. **Revise** your draft. Search for opportunities to adjust the content or the word choice/sentence structure to improve your writing.

↳ **CHECKLIST**

- Revised content
- Revised word choice and sentence structure



5. **Finalize** your composition. Edit for errors and create a clean, properly formatted copy. Correct all capitalization, punctuation, and spelling errors.

↳ **CHECKLIST**

- Corrected capitalization errors
- Corrected punctuation errors
- Corrected spelling errors
- Corrected formatting errors

ASSESSMENT

Expository Paragraph Rubric						
Format and Required Information	2 pts Formatted according to instructions with few, if any, mistakes. Name and other required information included.	1 pt Formatted with some mistakes. Name or other required information missing.	0.5 pts Formatted with several mistakes. Name and other required information missing.	_____ / 2		
Organization	6 pts Organized effectively (opening sentence, details with examples/support, closing sentence). Appropriate and effective transitions used.	5 pts Organized only generally according to the guidelines. General transitions used.	4 pts Organized vaguely according to the guidelines. Few and vague transitions used.	3 pts Organized poorly according to the guidelines. Transitions are not used.	_____ / 6	
Content	6 pts Includes at least 2 effective details with excellent examples/support. Word choice and sentence structure are rich and varied.	5 pts Includes at least 2 general details with basic examples/support. Word choice and sentence structure are generally effective and varied.	4 pts Does not include enough supporting details. Examples are missing or lacking in relevancy. Word choice and sentence structure are basic and lacking variety.	3 pts Does not include relevant supporting details or examples. Word choice and sentence structure are simple and vague.	_____ / 6	
Writing Type	6 pts An effective example of expository writing	5 pts A good example of expository writing.	4 pts A basic example of expository writing.	3 pts A poor example of expository writing.	_____ / 6	
Mechanics	5 pts Contains few, if any, errors in the conventions of the English language.	4 pts Contains some errors in the conventions of the English language.	3 pts Contains several errors in the conventions of the English language.	_____ / 5		
Total : _____ / 25 points						

ASSESSMENT**Assessment 7 – Argumentative Essay (Lessons 57-66)**

Circle the letter next to the correct answer.

1. The purpose of an argumentative essay is to _____.
 - A. defend one’s position
 - B. inform the reader
 - C. describe something in great detail
 - D. share one’s personal story

2. Which of the following explains how argumentative essays are different from persuasive essays?
 - A. Persuasive essays utilize emotional arguments while argumentative essays stick to the facts.
 - B. Argumentative essays appeal to one’s emotions, and persuasive essays only use evidence.
 - C. Persuasive essays use strong, firm language, and argumentative essays use weak, vague wording.
 - D. Argumentative essays express one’s opinion while persuasive essays do not.

3. All of the following persuasive techniques are acceptable to use in argumentative essays except...
 - A. using strong, credible evidence as support.
 - B. pointing out weaknesses in the other argument.
 - C. repeating the main argument.
 - D. appealing to emotion.

4. True or False: When you first draft your composition, you should focus on simply putting your thoughts into the parts of the essay, not writing the perfect composition.
 - A. True
 - B. False

5. Which of the following questions/prompts could be answered with an argumentative essay?
 - A. *Is technology more harmful or beneficial for society?*
 - B. *How does one create and maintain close friendships?*
 - C. *What are the differences and similarities between watching a movie and a TV show?*
 - D. *When was the last time you faced a challenge and overcame it?*

To complete the assessment, complete the argumentative essay writing prompt on the following page.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment 7 – Argumentative Essay



1. Read the **prompt**. Then, **brainstorm** your ideas on a clean sheet of paper.



With the rise of technology, societies have become more industrialized. However, many countries still have their own national parks to preserve areas of natural beauty. Are national parks still necessary, or should this conserved land be used for the betterment of developing cities? Argue for your opinion on this question and use strong supporting evidence.



2. **Plan** and **organize** your thoughts using a **graphic organizer**.

(Additional graphic organizers available in the *Assessment/Resource Booklet*.)



3. **Draft** your essay on a clean sheet of paper using the information in your plan.



4. **Revise** your draft. Search for opportunities to adjust the content or the word choice/sentence structure to improve your writing.



CHECKLIST

- Revised content
- Revised word choice and sentence structure



5. **Finalize** your composition. Edit for errors and create a clean, properly formatted copy. Correct all capitalization, punctuation, and spelling errors.



CHECKLIST

- Corrected capitalization errors
- Corrected punctuation errors
- Corrected spelling errors
- Corrected formatting errors

ASSESSMENT

Argumentative Essay Rubric								
Format and Required Information	10 pts Formatted according to instructions with few, if any, mistakes. Name and other required information included.	5 pts Formatted with some mistakes. Name or other required information missing.	1 pt Formatted with several mistakes. Name and other required information missing.				____ / 10	
Opening Paragraph	10 pts Opening paragraph introduces topic excellently. Interesting and effective hook.	7 pts Opening paragraph introduces topic well. Adequate hook.	4 pts Opening paragraph introduces topic poorly. Ineffective hook.	1 pt Opening paragraph is not included.			____ / 10	
Thesis	10 pts Thesis statement and restatement are included in the proper places. Thesis correctly and clearly represents the content of the essay.	7 pts Thesis statement and restatement are included in the proper places. Thesis incorrectly and/or unclearly represents the content of the essay.	4 pts Thesis statement and/or restatement are incorrectly placed and/or missing. Thesis does not represent the content of the essay.	1 pt Neither thesis nor restatement are effectively included.			____ / 10	
Body Paragraphs	20 pts Body paragraphs contain detailed support and examples. Support and examples are presented in an excellent manner.	16 pts Body paragraphs contain general support and examples. Support and examples are presented in a suitable manner.	12 pts Body paragraphs contain adequate support and examples. Support and examples are presented in an average manner.	8 pts Body paragraphs contain poor support and examples. Support and examples are presented in an ineffective manner.	4 pts Body paragraphs do not contain support and examples.			____ / 20
Closing Paragraph	10 pts Closing paragraph brings essay to a close excellently.	7 pts Closing paragraph brings essay to a close well.	4 pts Closing paragraph brings essay to a close poorly.	1 pt Closing paragraph is not included.			____ / 10	
Writing Type	10 pts An effective example of an argumentative essay.	7 pts A good example of an argumentative essay.	4 pts A basic example of an argumentative essay.	1 pt A poor example of an argumentative essay.			____ / 10	
Transitions	10 pts Appropriate and effective transitions are used between thoughts and paragraphs.	7 pts General transitions are used between thoughts and paragraphs.	4 pts Few and vague transitions are used between thoughts and paragraphs.	1 pt Inappropriate and/or missing transitions between thoughts and paragraphs.			____ / 10	
Word Choice and Sentence Structure	10 pts Word choice and sentence structure are rich and varied.	8 pts Word choice and sentence structure are well-chosen and somewhat varied.	6 pts Word choice and sentence structure are adequate and somewhat varied.	4 pts Word choice and sentence structure are basic and lack variety.	1 pt Word choice is vague, and sentences are simple and fragmented.			____ / 10
Mechanics	10 pts Contains few, if any, errors in the conventions of the English language.	5 pts Contains some errors in the conventions of the English language.		1 pt Contains several errors in the conventions of the English language.				____ / 10
Total:							____ / 100 points	

Unit Two Comprehensive Assessment (Lessons 25-75)**Circle the letter next to the correct answer.**

1. A paragraph begins with the following opening sentence: *Taking an online class is similar yet different from taking an in-person class.* Which of the closing sentences below would best end this paragraph?

- A. *Taking an in-person class is vastly different from taking an online class.*
- B. *Taking an online class is similar yet different from taking an in-person class.*
- C. *While taking an online class and an in-person class are different, they are both similar in that they provide an invaluable opportunity for education.*
- D. *Taking online classes and in-person classes are both important to further one's knowledge and education.*

2. The opening sentence of a paragraph...

- A. is the last sentence.
- B. expresses the paragraph's main idea.
- C. is a general statement that supports the main idea.
- D. is a specific statement that illustrates a detail.

3. Before you begin writing a composition, figure out the ____ and ____.

- A. audience; purpose
- B. details; examples
- C. thesis statement; supporting reasons
- D. evidence; arguments

4. What is the audience and purpose of an encyclopedia article about the life of Shakespeare?

- A. The audience is a general audience, and the purpose is to explain Shakespeare's life.
- B. The audience is college students, and the purpose is to explain Shakespeare's life.
- C. The audience is a general audience, and the purpose is to show why Shakespeare's literature is superior.
- D. The audience is young children, and the purpose is to analyze Shakespeare's plays.

UNIT TWO COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

9. A student is writing an expository paragraph explaining the pros and cons of becoming a doctor. Which of the following details should be left out of this paragraph?

- A. *The doctor profession gives people a sense of purpose and fulfillment because it gives them the opportunity to help people.*
- B. *In order to be a doctor, one has to go through years of schooling and training.*
- C. *Doctors have a high earning potential.*
- D. *Doctors diagnose, treat, and cure people's illnesses.*

10. Details are ____ while examples are ____.

- A. specific; general
- B. general; descriptive
- C. general; specific
- D. realistic; idealistic

11. *Prompt: Should the voting age be lowered to 16, or should the voting age remain 18 years old?*

What kind of writing does this prompt require?

- A. Argumentative
- B. Expository
- C. Descriptive
- D. Compare/Contrast

12. The opening paragraph of an essay includes...

- A. a hook, opening remarks, and a thesis statement.
- B. a thesis statement.
- C. details with examples.
- D. a hook.

UNIT TWO COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

Trees are incredibly important for the ecosystem. First, trees support the flourishing of wildlife. Not only do trees provide shade and shelter for animals, but they also preserve warmth by providing a screen from harsh wind, which keeps plants and animals protected. With their deep roots and strong trunks, they are built to weather the storms of life, symbolizing strength and resilience. Additionally, trees are vital in keeping the air healthy. Trees produce the air people breathe through the process of photosynthesis, taking in carbon dioxide and producing oxygen. Truly, trees are immensely vital to creating a healthy world where every species can thrive.

17. This paragraph is written in ____ voice.

- A. argumentative
- B. individual
- C. informative
- D. academic

18. This paragraph is an example of...

- A. expository writing.
- B. argumentative writing.
- C. personal writing.
- D. compare/contrast writing.

19. Which of the following details should be deleted to make this paragraph better?

- A. *Trees are incredibly important for the ecosystem.*
- B. *With their deep roots and strong trunks, they are built to weather the storms of life, symbolizing strength and resilience.*
- C. *Not only do trees provide shade and shelter for animals, but they also preserve warmth by providing a screen from harsh wind, which keeps plants and animals protected.*
- D. *Truly, trees are immensely vital to creating a healthy world where every species can thrive.*

20. Which of the following details should be added to make this composition stronger?

- A. *Representing stability, vitality, connection to nature, and ancestry, trees have a complex symbolism.*
- B. *When I was 12 years old, I fell out of a tree and broke my leg.*
- C. *Trees are a woody perennial plant that typically has a single trunk that grows to a significant height, bearing branches that hang at some distance from the ground.*
- D. *Simultaneously, trees purify the air by removing dust and absorbing harmful pollutants, which are all washed away by the rain into the ground.*

To complete the assessment, complete the writing prompt on the following page.

UNIT TWO COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

Unit Two Composition Assessment



1. Read the **prompt**. Then, **brainstorm** your ideas on a clean sheet of paper.

↳ *What purposes does art (visual, literary, or musical) serve in society? Think about how art can influence people's thoughts and emotions as well as how it can inspire change in communities or provide insight into the past. Write an essay to explain your answer.*



2. **Plan** and **organize** your thoughts using a **graphic organizer**.

(Additional graphic organizers available in the *Assessment/Resource Booklet*.)



3. **Draft** your essay on a clean sheet of paper using the information in your plan.



4. **Revise** your draft. Search for opportunities to adjust the content or the word choice/sentence structure to improve your writing.

↳ **CHECKLIST**

- Revised content
- Revised word choice and sentence structure



5. **Finalize** your composition. Edit for errors and create a clean, properly formatted copy. Correct all capitalization, punctuation, and spelling errors.

↳ **CHECKLIST**

- Corrected capitalization errors
- Corrected punctuation errors
- Corrected spelling errors
- Corrected formatting errors