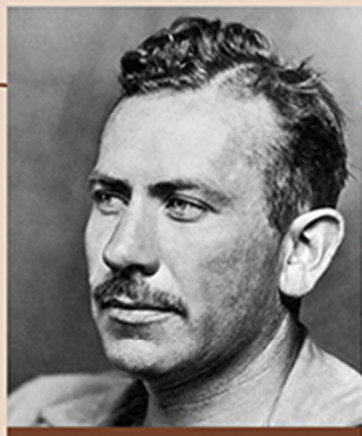


WRITING & GRAMMAR 12

WORKTEXT
Fourth Edition





IN THE — 1960s —



Nobel Prize writer John Steinbeck, traveling with Charley, his French poodle, completed an almost ten-thousand-mile road trip that followed the border of the United States. His memoir recounts the changing landscape—majestic mountains, vast plains, bustling cities. Soaking up the flavor of the people he met along the way, Steinbeck observed and learned. The trek yielded his memoir, *Travels with Charley: In Search of America*.

This year as you journey through *Writing and Grammar 12*, imagine yourself likewise on an extended road trip. Your **Itinerary** determines your destinations, the **Landmarks** or major writing assignments scheduled on your trip. To prepare, you will need grammar **Tune-Ups** to prevent any major syntactical breakdowns. Obeying your punctuation **Signs and Signals** will allow a smooth ride for your reader, one without bumps, detours, or flat tires that hinder, delay, or muddy the message of your writing. Small writing assignments are planned **Excursions** off the main route. You can note your progress on this road trip as you click off **Mile Markers** along





the way, diction items that—if not learned already—must be mastered. **Billboards** will alert you to the work of earlier Christian authors and poets who have influenced travelers through their writing. In *Finding Your Voice*, take time to explore **Attractions**, examples of writing styles with which you may have an affinity. And as you traverse the literary landscape, collect **Souvenirs** along the way to recall special memories or a passage that you personally want to remember, unforgettable for its style or content. Make the most of your *Writing and Grammar 12* road trip, and, like Steinbeck, observe and learn.

LEGEND

LANDMARKS

Major Writing Assignments

TUNE-UPS

Grammar

SIGNS AND SIGNALS

Punctuation

EXCURSIONS

Small Writing Assignments

MILE MARKERS

Diction

BILLBOARDS

Redemptive Writing

ATTRACTIONS

Finding Your Voice

SOUVENIRS

Commonplace Book Entries

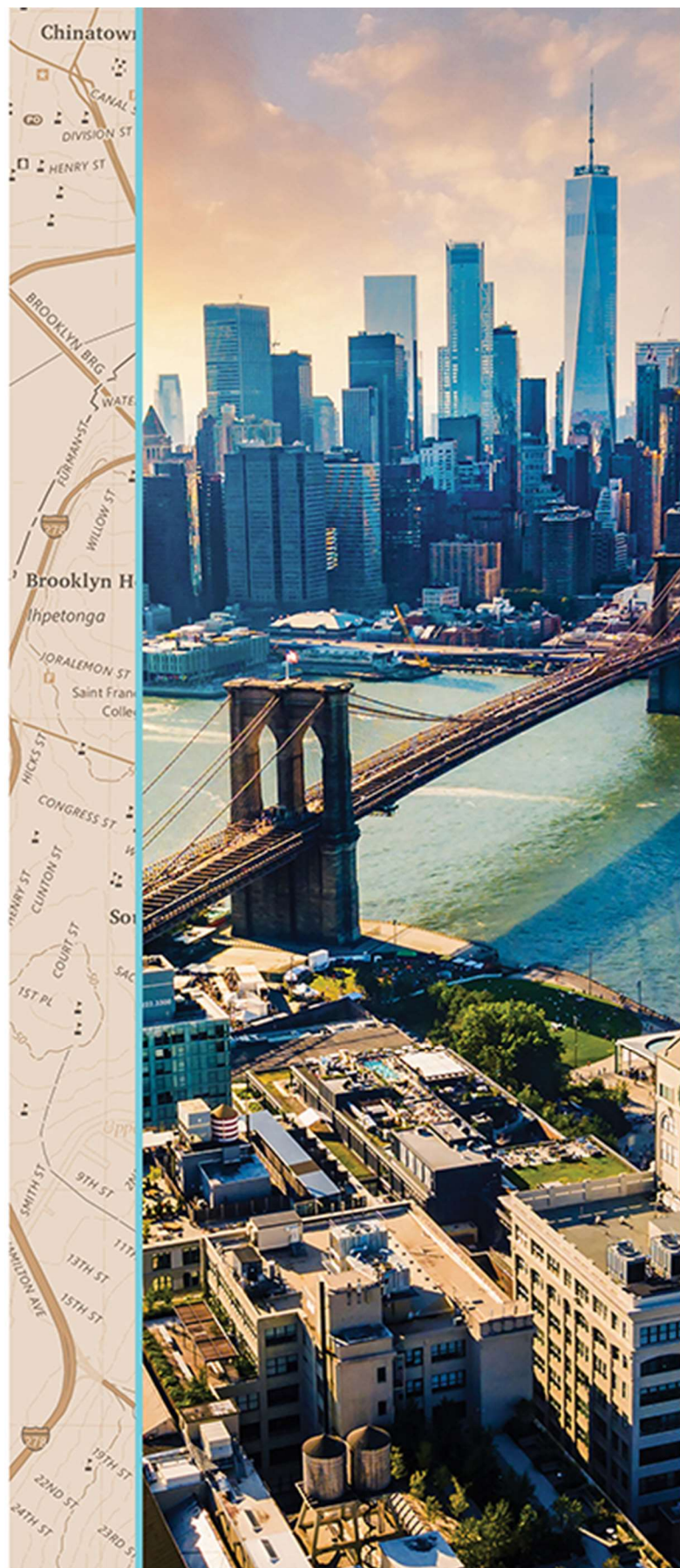


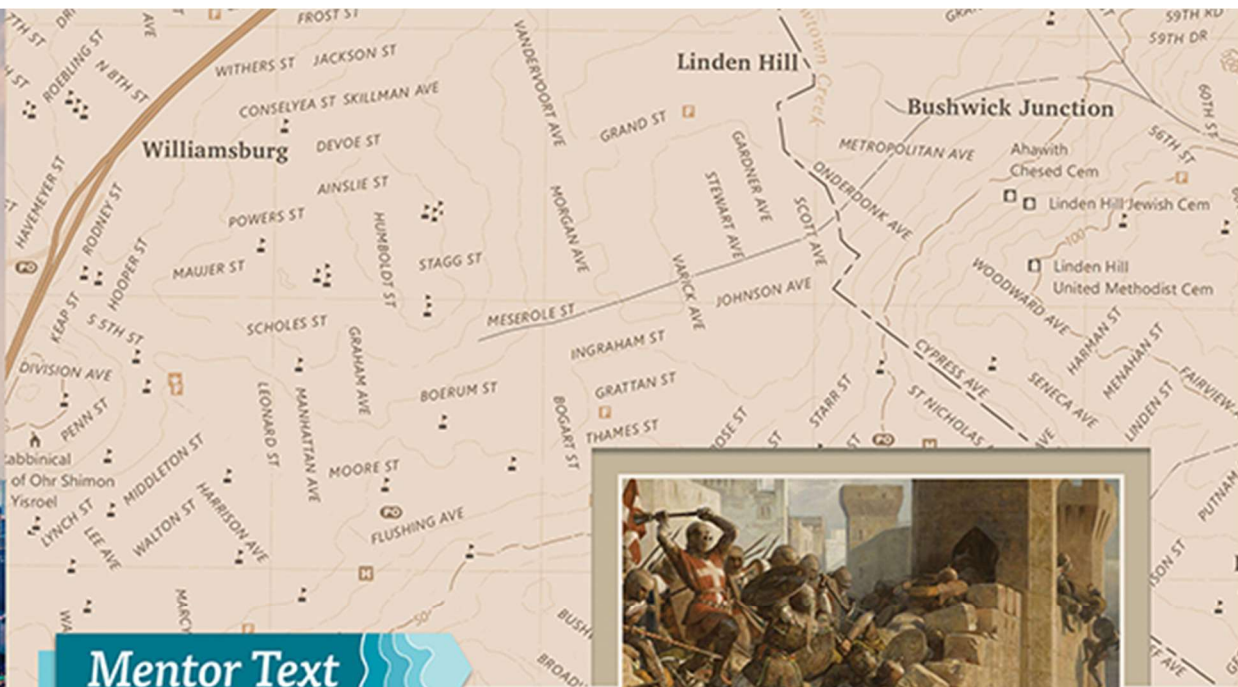
UNIT 1

Starting Your Journey

What role can I play in fulfilling the Creation Mandate in a fallen world?

IN A FEW short months, you will be entering into the world of adulthood. Perhaps you are excited because of some of the privileges adulthood provides, such as the freedom to make your own decisions. However, you will soon learn that adulthood, while having advantages, also brings more responsibilities and challenges. These responsibilities further your existing role in the **Creation Mandate** that God gave man when He commanded man to subdue and have dominion over the earth (Gen. 1:28). We face plenty of challenges while fulfilling the Creation Mandate, challenges like sickness, pain, and death that are the result of the Fall. But the problems caused by sin are not always so obvious. In the following excerpt the author makes the case that a sinful culture is just as much a threat to modern Christians as the imminent perils that afflicted earlier believers. As you read this excerpt, consider how you can fulfill the responsibilities God is about to give you as an adult while living in a fallen, sinful world.





Mentor Text

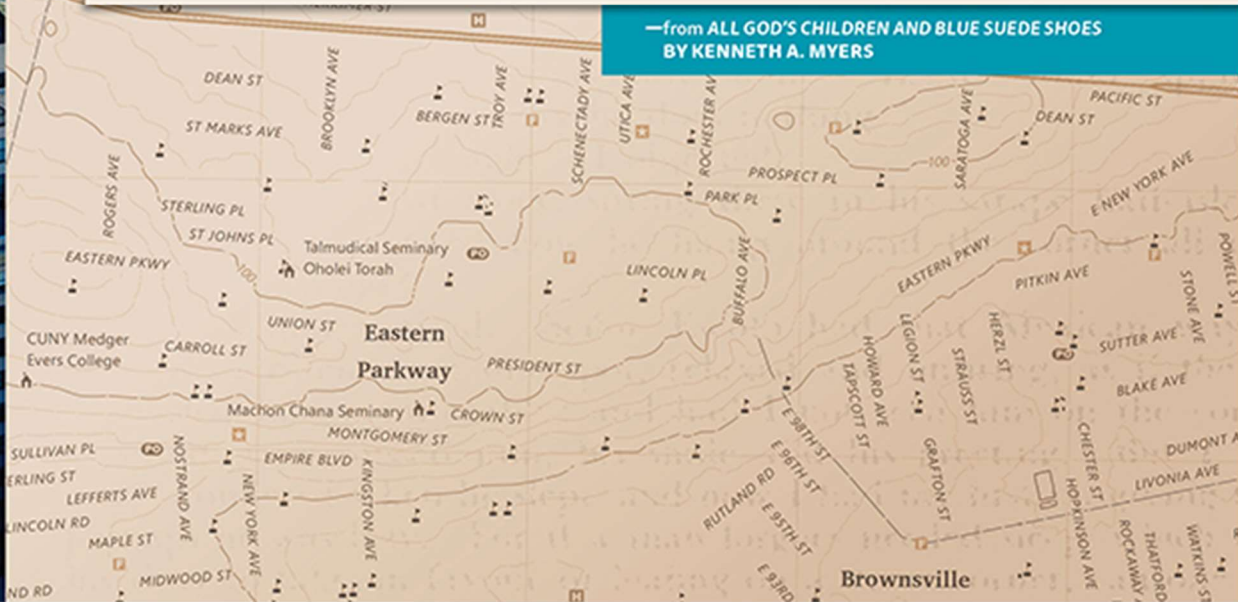
Every generation of Christians faces unique challenges. The first-century Church had Caesar's lions and the Colosseum. Christians a few hundred years later, following the conversion of Constantine, enjoyed more liberty for exercising their faith, but faced the terror of Visigoth, Ostrogoth, and Bulgar invaders. Still later the peril of plague swept through Europe and, unlike certain Biblical pestilences, showed no discrimination between the faithful and the wicked. The sixteenth century brought the renaissance of Biblical truth in the Protestant Reformation, but it also brought religious wars and persecution by competing churches.

It might seem an extreme assertion at first, but I believe that *the challenge of living with*



popular culture may well be as serious for modern Christians as persecution and plagues were for the saints of earlier centuries. Being thrown to the lions or living in the shadow of gruesome death are fairly straightforward if unattractive threats. Enemies that come loudly and visibly are usually much easier to fight than those that are undetectable. Physical affliction (even to the point of death) for the sake of Christ is a heavy cross, but at least it can be readily recognized at the time as a trial of faith. But the erosion of character, the spoiling of innocent pleasures, and the cheapening of life itself that often accompany modern popular culture can occur so subtly that we believe nothing has happened.

—from *ALL GOD'S CHILDREN AND BLUE SUEDE SHOES*
BY KENNETH A. MYERS





Chapter 1

Preparing for the Journey— Introducing the Capstone Project

How can writing be used redemptively in a broken world?

There is a well-known story of a man who is walking along a beach at low tide and throwing starfish back into the ocean. A woman stops him and asks what he is doing. The man explains that the starfish will die on land, so he is throwing them back in. Looking along the beach, the woman points out that there are thousands of starfish stranded on the beach and the man cannot possibly save them all. Why then should he bother with this impossible task when it doesn't make much of a difference? The man then stoops down to pick up a starfish and holds it up to the woman. "It makes a difference to this one," he says, before throwing the starfish into the water.

As you contemplate the responsibilities and problems mentioned in the unit opener, you may be tempted to think that meaningfully addressing the problems in this world is a bit like the man's throwing starfish into the water. However, while only God can permanently redeem this broken world, you can still make a difference in the lives of many around you. One of the ways you can do that is through writing. Think of the people who have influenced you through their writing even though they may have died before you were born. The more skilled you become at writing, the greater the likelihood that your written thoughts can make a difference in the lives of others—even those whom you will never meet.



Eberhard 1

Mason Eberhard

Mr. Jones

English 12

14 September 20xx

Understanding the Student Loan System

While Americans have for many years been able to obtain student loans to pay for college, this debt has begun to significantly burden many in society over the past couple of decades. As of this writing, the total amount of debt US citizens have for educational expenses has far exceeded one trillion dollars and has surpassed any other type of debt Americans hold, excluding mortgages. The average student loan balance is now tens of thousands of dollars and is inhibiting many people from making important life decisions, such as choosing a job they enjoy, getting married, or having children. Because this problematic debt is so pervasive in our society, I would like to research how the student loan system works, the outstanding problems with the system, and potential lessons both individuals and society can learn to make wise decisions about college.

Preliminary research has shown that the student loan program began shortly after World War II. Over the ensuing decades, it has expanded to loan an exorbitant amount of money to nearly anyone


The introduction makes a case for why the topic is important and worthy of research. □


This thesis statement presents the proposal. Because this is a personal proposal, the use of first person is acceptable. □

Preliminary research focuses on presenting common knowledge, information that many people already know or can find in a number of different sources. □

who wishes to attend college. This easy access to money significantly impacts tuition prices, which have increased over the past few decades in rates well above the rate of inflation. During the early days of the program, most students had to borrow only small amounts of money that they could quickly pay back. Now, however, the average student is borrowing enormous amounts of money that often take decades to pay back. While a college degree generally still enables graduates to make more money than nongraduates, the large monthly student loan payments graduates now need to pay for many years restrain them from being able to build wealth over the course of their careers. Additionally, college graduates who cannot find a lucrative job after completing their degree now find themselves in dire financial distress because they are unable to make their loan payments.

The focus of this research is to determine under what circumstances, if any, students should take out loans to pay for college. This research project will first look at the issue through a historical perspective to understand how the student loan system and its problems have developed over the years. This project will then analyze the topic from an economic perspective to understand the financial risks and benefits that can result from an individual's using student loans to pay for college. Finally, this project will use a biblical perspective to develop


The third section of this proposal paper discusses the focus of research. This includes a discussion of which viewpoints will be used to analyze the topic as well as what fieldwork the student will do to gain experiential knowledge of the issue. 

The author discusses the anticipated outcomes, what he hopes to learn from the project, and how he can use that information to fulfill the Creation Mandate. 

a biblical understanding of debt and apply this knowledge to student loans. In addition to my research, I also plan to learn from experts in the field by interviewing financial aid advisers, admission counselors, and other administrators at a local college to understand how important student loans are to the financial well-being of the college, how they give financial advice to incoming or prospective students, and how many students use loans to cover their tuition.

At the conclusion of this project, I anticipate developing a better understanding of debt that I can use not only in my own personal financial decisions but also in educating and counseling other young people who are considering taking out student loans. I believe that by developing and proposing a solution to this problem, I will be doing the sort of work God has made me to do and helping others to better do so as well. I see my project as carrying out the Creation Mandate by helping others wisely prepare for their adult lives and the work God calls them to do. In many cases that work will require further education, but the pitfalls students may encounter with obtaining that education through student loans can actually work against their accomplishing what God wants them to. They will have greater freedom and flexibility for this work by understanding and avoiding the challenges related to educational debt.

One of the first major decisions young adults make in their lives is whether to attend college and, if so, how to pay for it. Because college is broadly viewed in American culture as a key to financial success, many college applicants view getting a degree as worth the substantial price, but this thinking may be a wrong view that results in major financial consequences. This capstone project can, therefore, serve as a tool to help many young adults make these major decisions in a wise and biblical manner.

The conclusion reinforces the importance of the issue and provides closure to the proposal. 

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Previewing the Capstone Project

LEARNING TARGETS

- I will learn how I can fulfill the Creation Mandate as a twelfth-grade student.
- I will understand the basic requirements of my senior capstone project.

What Is Capstone?

In terms of architecture a capstone is the stone placed at the top of a wall or building. Capstones not only protect the top of a structure but also give the building a look of finality. Over time capstones have come to refer to someone's crowning achievement in a certain area. This year you will have the opportunity to work on a senior capstone project, which will serve as the culminating achievement of your academic career. Since the time you were in kindergarten, you have been learning to develop many valuable skills, such as reading, writing, speaking, researching, and critical thinking. Now you will have the opportunity to demonstrate your proficiency in these skills by using them to complete this final project. However, this project is not merely an opportunity to showcase what you have learned. It is rather a chance to use your knowledge and skills to serve God and your neighbor by identifying a need or controversy in your community and working to address that issue in some way. This capstone project is an important way you can work to fulfill the Creation Mandate in a fallen world. Fulfilling this mandate requires a great deal of responsibility and love. Your role as image-bearer should closely reflect the One whose image you bear. Knowing you represent Him in your capstone project will provide the example you need to subdue gently, to exercise dominion wisely, and to govern lovingly. Allow these thoughts to guide you as you choose from the following two options for your capstone project.

Option A: Serving Your Community

Because we live in a fallen world, every community has problems. Choosing Option A will allow you to identify a need or problem in your community, research the problem, and develop a proposed solution to meet that need. Perhaps your community has a problem with homelessness, littering, or crime. Any problem you identify demonstrates a way in which people think and act that bends against God's **creational norms**, divine laws that govern the way human individuals and cultures operate. By learning about the cause of the problem and evaluating potential solutions, you can help bring about change to mitigate or even eliminate this difficulty, therefore pressing things back to the way God originally intended them to be.



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The Requirements of a Capstone Project

Your capstone project will consist of the following parts.

Proposal Paper

Having determined which option to choose and topic to explore, you will first need to write a proposal paper in which you explain the focus and purpose of your capstone project and what you hope to have achieved upon completion.

Annotated Bibliography

This project will require an extensive amount of research. You must, therefore, compile several credible sources into an annotated bibliography. An annotated bibliography offers a brief summary of what each source says about your topic, an assessment including some criticisms of each source, and a personal estimation of each source, mainly focused on how it fits into your research. The assessment should include a critique of the credibility of the source and the author. Is the author an expert in the field? Is the source scholarly? The personal estimation should include how the source fits into your research. Does this source offer the most helpful information for your research? Does it offer one or two facts or definitions? It may be helpful to divide the sources into categories. A compilation of this information about your sources is helpful to your research.



Interview

While you can learn much through published material, an interview with an expert in the field will provide you with the opportunity to understand the issue from the perspective of an experienced person. You will, therefore, need to interview someone who works, preferably as an authority, in a field related to your topic. For example, if you wish to address the problem of homelessness, you can interview someone who works for the local homeless shelter.

Research Paper

The largest part of this project is the research paper. You will need to analyze your topic through three different perspectives. First, you will need to address the topic from a historical perspective. The second