

Writing Assessment

6.W.1d & 6.W.3e

1. Which of the following sentences does NOT use informal language?
 - a. Everybody said his new car was a “sweet ride.”
 - b. Susanne totally couldn’t believe that she had won the lottery.
 - c. The letter arrived in the morning, and he opened it immediately.
 - d. I always feel cooped up in my cubicle at work.

6.W.2c

2. Choose the best transitional word for the sentence below.

Two seats were left on the bus; _____, most of the group had to wait for the next one.

- a. otherwise
- b. although
- c. likewise
- d. therefore

6.W.1&2

3. The sentence that informs the reader about the main idea of an essay is called?

- a. topic sentence
- b. concluding statement
- c. supporting detail
- d. thesis

4. You have been given the topic “Should peanuts be banned from school?” Which of the following provides the weakest claim for banning peanuts?

- a. peanut butter is messy
- b. many students have allergies to peanuts
- c. peanuts are a choking hazard
- d. there are alternate products to use

5. Which of the following would provide the best evidence for the reason “Many students have allergies to peanuts”?

- a. “Allergists are contradicting themselves by recommending strict avoidance but not peanut bans in schools.”
- b. “...few kids (15-20%) outgrow their peanut allergy.”
- c. “The majority of peanut oil used by foodservice has been highly refined and processed.”
- d. “About 0.6 – 1.0 % of people have peanut allergy, which can vary from mild to severe.”

6. Which of the following sentences uses the active voice?

- a. Several ingredients were used by the chef to make the stew.
- b. The chef used several ingredients to make the stew.
- c. To make the stew, several ingredients were used.
- d. The stew was made by the chef using several ingredients.

Read the following report about Alexander Graham Bell.

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Alexander Graham Bell

- 1 Most people remember Alexander Graham Bell for his work with the telephone. However, Bell invented many things in his life. Bell was a brilliant scientist who continued investigating and experimenting throughout his life.
- 2 Bell built his first invention, a machine that took the husks off wheat, when he was only twelve. Even at this young age, he had a strong desire to understand and improve the world. At the end of his life, Bell was still inventing. This time his interest was in hydrofoils, which are fast-moving boats that can partly lift themselves out of the water. Bell and a friend actually ended up building the fastest hydrofoil in the world.
- 3 Bell also made improvements to other inventions, such as Thomas Edison's early record player. The "records" were shaped like cans of food, broke easily, could not hold many sounds, and also could not be copied. Edison had given up trying to solve these problems and had abandoned the record player for other inventions. Bell believed the problems could be solved, and by 1878 he had created a flat, hard, round disk similar to the records called LPs (a long-playing phonograph record). This improvement made the phonograph useful and popular. Today, people enjoy listening to recorded music on CDs.
- 4 In 1879, Bell invented the audiometer, a device used to check a person's hearing. Bell was passionate about helping deaf people. His mother had gone deaf when he was a boy, and later Bell would fall in love with and marry a deaf woman. Because sign language was not commonly used yet, Bell saw how difficult it could be for deaf people to communicate with others. Using a special method invented by his father, Bell taught deaf people who could not speak how to make sounds and, later, words. He even started a school for deaf children.
- 5 Late in his life, Bell became fascinated with flight. He wanted to design a kite that was strong enough to hold a motor and a passenger. The first step was to find the right shape. Bell sent up kites shaped like cubes, rings, and cylinders. He finally discovered the perfect shape—a tetrahedron, or a triangle-shaped pyramid. Although Bell did not succeed in creating the first working "flying machine," his efforts were still useful.
- 6 Bell once said, "Wherever you may find the inventor, you may give him wealth or you may take from him all that he has; and he will go on inventing. He can no more help inventing than he can help thinking or breathing." These words certainly describe the way Bell lived his life.

CCW7.2.a

7. Choose the **best** thesis statement for the report.

- A. Alexander Graham Bell made many advances toward helping deaf people.
- B. Alexander Graham Bell started his life as an inventor at the age of twelve.
- C. Alexander Graham Bell's greatest accomplishment was improving the record player.
- D. Alexander Graham Bell's constant experiments with new ideas made him famous.

CCW 7.1.e

8. Choose the sentence that would **best** conclude Paragraph 5.

- A. Many people believe the first recorded flight was accomplished by the Wright brothers.
- B. Due to his work, the tetrahedron is used today in supports for bridges and other heavy structures.
- C. Around 400 B.C., the Chinese were the first to invent kites that were able to fly.
- D. The dream of flying is not new or uncommon, as it has been around for centuries.

CCW7.b

9. Which sentence should be removed from paragraph 3?

- A. Edison had given up trying to solve these problems and had abandoned the record player for other inventions.
- B. Bell believed the problems could be solved, and by 1878 he had created a flat, hard, round disk similar to the records called LPs (a long-playing phonograph record.)
- C. This improvement made the phonograph useful and popular.
- D. Today, people enjoy listening to recorded music on CDs.

CCW7. 9

10. You have been asked to write a paper on The Education of Deaf Students. What idea from this paper would best be used in your paper to support your thesis that all students, even those who are hearing impaired, can learn.

- A. Bell was a brilliant scientist who continued investigating and experimenting throughout his life.
- B. Today, people enjoy listening to recorded music on CDs.
- C. Bell taught deaf people who could not speak how to make sounds and, later, words.
- D. He (Bell) even started a school for deaf children.

CCW7.2.c

Choose the best transition word to be included in the following sentence.

11. I dropped my cell phone and it broke. _____, I need to either buy a new one or borrow yours.

- A. In spite of
- B. Furthermore
- C. In addition
- D. Therefore

Read the following passage.

1 My dad is my greatest hero. 2 He works outside, doing physical feats most kids' parents wouldn't dream of doing. 3 On top of that, he is his own boss.

4 Last month, I helped him clean up after a storm that blew down huge trees all over town. 5 We have had a lot of really major storms this year. 6 I could not lift some of the branches. 7 I did more than I thought I could. 8 That was with his encouragement. 9 Lots of grownups tell you to "do your best." 10 they could learn a lot from him.

12. Where would this sentence best fit in the paragraph?

He comes and goes as he pleases, and always takes time off to come to my games.

- A. After sentence 2
- B. After sentence 3
- C. After sentence 7
- D. After sentence 9

13. Which sentence does not belong in the paragraph?

- A. Sentence 3
- B. Sentence 4
- C. Sentence 5
- D. Sentence 8

Take a look at the following rough draft of a student's report.

The following is a rough draft of a student's report on blogging. It may contain errors. **Directions:** Read the essay below and then answer the questions that follow.

- 1 A Web log, or a blog, is a personal space on the Internet where a regular person can write his or her thoughts, express opinions, and post pictures. A blog lets you keep family and friends up to date about your life. It is an online journal where anyone can practice self-expression. Blogging also enhances your creativity and helps you practice your writing skills. Blogging can be fun, but it also requires the writer to be responsible.
- 2 There are very few rules that concern blogging, and even those rules may be challenged by other bloggers. You can write about anything and everything you want to write about. You can also control what and what not to publish online. Some blogs even allow the blogger to limit the people who can read them. Blogs also allow you to design your own space or personalize a template. There are many Web sites that offer add-ons that you can post to your blog, like online clocks, Internet buttons, fancy fonts, and images.
- 3 But whichever decisions you end up making, you have to remember that blogs are usually open for anyone to read. If you express strong opinions on your blog, expect that someone will always have a different opinion and might leave comments that you don't want to be published on your blog. Like you, they also have the right to express themselves online.

14. Which is the *best* thesis statement for this report?

- A. Blogging is fun but involves responsibility.
- B. Blogging is unsafe because of privacy issues.
- C. Blogging lets you say whatever you want.
- D. Blogging is offensive to people with different views.

15. Which of these details would *not* support the author's thesis?

- A a story about an amusing blogging experience
- B a list of rules common to popular blog sites
- C statistics about the growing number of bloggers
- D a quote from a friend who did not enjoy blogging

16. The *best* way for the author to improve this report would be to

- A include a list of celebrities who have blogs.
- B add anecdotes of personal blogging experiences.
- C include a strong ending that summarizes the main points.
- D point out Web sites where Internet buttons can be downloaded.

17. Which of these would make the *best* concluding sentence to the report?

- A When you blog, remember to respect the opinions of others and write with care, and you will enjoy your experience.
- B Always remember that a blog should be attractive so that other people will look at it and appreciate how talented you are.
- C If you have a blog, you can use it to tell your family and friends who live far away stories of your life.
- D Blogging is fun and easy, and you should encourage other people to try it out because they might enjoy it as much as you do.

Read the following sentences.

The peasants were terrified of what would happen if they refused to provide food and supplies for the bandits. However, the peasants were determined to somehow stop the raids. In addition, they hired seven men to help the villagers fight back.

18. The transitional phrase in addition does not correctly link the ideas in the second and third sentences. Which of these should be used instead?

- A. another
- B. such as
- C. because
- D. as a result

