

Chapter 1 Exercises

Lesson 1.1: Writing Situations and Purposes

1. In the following assignment prompt, identify the key word that indicates the purpose of the writing.

Write an essay that argues for or against oil extraction in Canada's Northwest Territories.
2. Someone wants to file an official complaint of sexist discrimination about a coworker with the Title IX coordinator on campus. Which genre would be most appropriate for this writing situation?

Poem Fax Blog Report
3. Think of the last piece of writing you composed. Write a few sentences explaining the purpose, audience, and genre of the writing.

Lesson 1.2: Writing to Respond

4. Read the following passage. Which sentence indicates that the author is using the response method “respond by reflecting”?

Recently, we read a text for class about different energy sources. One politician quoted in the text said that natural gas is still the only option because sources of alternative energy will never be easily accessible. I agree with this argument; wind and solar energy, for example, are not affordable for people with an average income.
5. Read the following passage. Which sentence indicates that the author is using the response method “respond by comparing”?

The article we read in our last class was about the history of basketball. It contained several quotes from famous basketball players. Recently, I read a book that had a similar subject to the article because it was about the history of soccer.
6. A student has written the following response to a scientific article. Which sentence addresses the author's choice of organizational pattern?

The article was fascinating because it focused on the increase of salmon in local waterways. The author did a strong job of explaining cause and effect, making the cause of the increase in salmon clear and making the effect—an increase in revenue—even clearer. Based on the article, it is likely that the salmon population will continue to increase; the author's use of facts made this easy to discern.

Lesson 1.3: Writing to Summarize

7. Read the following passage. Which sentence contains the main idea?

Not So Lucky Now dramatizes a stockbroker's struggle with addiction and depression in the early 2000s. The film's main purpose is to generate sympathy for those diagnosed with such conditions. Stories like this one shine a light on an essential truth: we must do more to understand those with mental health issues, and we must spend more tax money on accessible mental health care.

8. What is the purpose of the following summary?

“Frayed” is set in future Los Angeles and features a down-on-his luck detective investigating the murder of a synthetic human. Throughout the story, the author emphasizes how dangerous technological advancements can be. The character of Maya Rodriguez is especially interesting because of her multifaceted personality and persistence in the face of death.

- It is a brief overview meant to familiarize the reader with the story so that the main point about the specific character makes sense.
- It is very detailed and is used to provide an overview of the entire story.
9. The following summary is based on this main idea: “The setting of this novel reveals the author’s intent to convey a sense of melancholy, sadness, and frustration.” Which sentence includes a detail that is **not** relevant to this main idea?

The novel opens with a scene on the moor, fog hanging across the bleak landscape. I didn’t care for several of the characters, particularly the cousin. Near the end of the novel, the fog lifting would have created a feeling of hope; however, this was not the case.

Lesson 1.4: Writing to Propose

10. In the following proposal, which sentence anticipates objections?

Have you ever checked your phone only to see that you had no new notifications? We constantly check our phones, which leads to distraction, decreased productivity, and disappointment. I have developed a phone prototype that can be programmed to turn the screen a specific color based on different types of new notifications. In field tests, individuals using the prototype checked their phone 50% less than individuals using a regular smartphone. Some have pointed out that this is not helpful to people with visual impairment, but there is an option to use a specified ringtone or vibration to indicate notifications. What I need to make this prototype a reality is a \$30,000 loan.

11. Which hook would be most effective for the following writing situation?

Dev is writing a proposal to start a not-for-profit community vegetable garden.

- Wouldn’t it be hilarious if you went to the market and the shelves were bare? Sorry, we’re all out!
- In a community where most members lack the funds to purchase healthy food, a not-for-profit community vegetable garden will fill bellies and hearts.
- We would like to grow vegetables. This would be helpful in our neighborhood.
12. Read the following proposal. Which sentence contains the most effective supporting evidence?

As graduate students, we have been working to hone our skills in a new style of digital news reporting, and we would like to be the recipients of the university’s Innovations in Human Connection grant. To date, digital news reporting has never utilized the montage system we have developed: a system that allows viewers to see a variety of stories in a new type of encapsulated format. Ratings industries that have reviewed our new reporting style have applauded our ability to impart more breaking news reports at a faster rate than traditional reporting methods, all without sacrificing depth of information. We request that the upcoming grant be awarded to our graduate group so that we can advance human connection through media.

Lesson 1.5: Writing to Discuss

13. Read the following passage. Which sentence indicates the writer's intention to discuss?

The 1700s are often called the "Age of Reason" or the "Age of Enlightenment." Prominent thinkers of this period include writers and philosophers like Rousseau, Voltaire, and Descartes, who each made contributions that still shape modern society. Voltaire is quoted often because he wrote about our right to speak freely.

14. Which questions could be useful for generating discussion? Identify all that apply.

- Do you feel the judge acted responsibly?
- Where do you see characters facing difficult decisions in this story?
- Which orchard grew the most oranges?

15. Read the following incomplete statement about question writing with the intent to discuss. Which word or phrase best fills in the blank?

Divide the question up into _____ pieces for dissecting and answering.

- jumbled
- separate
- an odd number of

Lesson 1.6: Writing to Describe

16. The following passage appeals primarily to which sense?

The gleam of the chalice fixed Joquan's gaze. What looked to be alien letters blossomed on its surface and then receded again as if blinking out a code. A mist filtered up from its platform and enveloped the area in a cloudy haze.

- Sight
- Touch
- Taste
- Smell

17. Read the following passage. Which sentence uses figurative language?

My drive home last night was extremely frustrating and took almost an hour. The late rush hour traffic crawled slower than a herd of snails. By the time I got home, my back and shoulders were painfully tense, stiff, and sore.

18. Read the following sentence. Which detail could replace the underlined phrase to provide the clearest, most specific description?

The photographer was good at getting kids to smile for the camera.

- succeeded at prompting smiles
- cleverly used props and rubber duckies to make children grin
- made children laugh and giggle

Lesson 1.7: Writing to Argue

19. Read the following passage. Which sentence states a personal taste?

It's important to study Caribbean poetry because it gives a voice to groups of individuals who often go largely unheard. Additionally, Caribbean poetry is more beautiful than British or American poetry.

20. Read the following passage. Which sentence attempts to establish common ground with the audience?

Morning traffic management has become a safety hazard and a serious source of stress at Washington Elementary School. Of course, we all just want our kids to get to school safely and on time. Bus drivers must stop crossing traffic lines and show more courtesy for parents who drive their kids to school.

21. Read the following incomplete sentence. Which detail would best fill in the blank to make this a statement of value rather than preference?

The food craze featuring kale is _____.

- fortunately leading to more delicious, healthy side dishes
- one trend that illustrates the new wave of health consciousness sweeping the nation
- overrated because the vegetable is bitter and difficult to cook with

Lesson 1.8: Writing to Analyze

22. Read the following passage. Which sentences demonstrate analysis? Identify all that apply.

William Shakespeare is renowned for writing countless plays and poems. In one play, a character named Iago lies to his friend Othello—the title character—multiple times. Iago informs the audience that he lies because he is bitter that Othello did not choose him to be a lieutenant in the Venetian army. Iago is a symbol of the destruction that comes from holding onto a grudge. Iago expresses no remorse for his actions, which shows that his character is thoroughly corrupt.

23. Read the following passage. Which sentences help you infer the time of year? Identify all that apply.

Without thinking, Javier sprinted out the door. His lips turned blue, and his body stiffened. He didn't mind; he was on a mission to catch the boy he'd just seen stealing his bike. As he ran down the street, he was still careful to avoid the melted puddles and gray slush.

24. Read the following points from an outline. They should be a sequentially organized analysis of the Great Migration, but they've been jumbled. Identify which order they should be in to make the outline sequential.

(A) During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the migration north slowed due to fewer available jobs.

(B) Around 1910, African Americans began moving north to flee unjust Jim Crow laws.

(C) Up until about 1910, 90% of African Americans lived in the South.

(D) By 1970, the vast majority of African Americans lived in cities.

- C, B, A, D B, A, C, D D, A, B, C

Lesson 1.9: Writing to Evaluate

25. Angie is planning a vacation to Miami. Which standards are relevant to her evaluation of hotels in the area? Identify all that apply.

- Cost
- The manager's name
- Amenities
- Location

26. Read the following incomplete statement. Which detail best fills in the blank to complete the sentence?

When writing to evaluate, visual elements are useful sources of evidence to support or defend a claim because they _____.

- clarify and illustrate the points a writer is trying to prove
- offer readers a chance to research the source of the visual element
- are easier for readers to understand than words

27. Which form of evaluation is illustrated in the following statement?

Explaining that the student had not adequately completed the majority of past-due assignments, the instructor then provided a brief summary stating why the student would not pass the course.

- Assessment
- Appraisal
- Analysis