

Chapter 2 Exercises

Lesson 2.1: Descriptive Writing

1. Read the following passage. Which sentence “shows” the idea instead of “telling” it?

The elderly teacher found the playground noise to be distracting and even bothersome. She rested her head in her age-spotted hands and closed her tired eyes, the shrill voices growing distant with each of her meditative breaths. Jeremy, her most rambunctious student, sat beside her and asked if she was okay. She smiled and responded truthfully: “Yes.”

2. In the following sentence, which word provides readers with a nonvisual sensory detail?

The big-bellied robin chirped his song the entire sunny morning.

3. Read the following passage. To what sense does it primarily appeal?

The glimmer of the silver bauble captivated Toni. The markings that crisscrossed its surface seemed almost supernatural, alien in design. A hazy blue film, silky and nearly transparent, covered the entire ornament.

- Smell Touch Sound Taste Sight

4. Identify the strong action verb in the following sentence.

Recently elected, the mayor was unprepared when journalists peppered him with several difficult questions at once.

5. Which sentence contains the strongest verb?

- News of the last-minute delay was surprising to the journalism community.
 News of the last-minute delay greatly surprised the journalism community.
 News of the last-minute delay flabbergasted the journalism community.
 News of the last-minute delay caused shock within the journalism community.

Lesson 2.2: Narrative Writing

6. Read the following narrative. How is it organized?

As a college student active in community service projects, Salena found that she could empathize with people experiencing exclusion. Salena recounted her experiences of being ceaselessly bullied by her peers in middle school. Girls she’d considered friends had gossiped mercilessly behind her back.

- Nonlinear order with flash-forward
 Chronological order
 Nonlinear order with flashback

7. Which sentence in the following passage indicates that the narrative is written in nonlinear order?

It wasn’t until my friend Judah mentioned he was moving that I considered a world outside of West Covina. All that I know and love exists within the parameters of this city. One year from now, I will make the decision to jump on a plane and move across the country. Today, I am wondering if re-signing my apartment lease was a mistake; maybe there’s something else out there worth exploring.

8. Which type of hook does the following introductory sentence use?

Country club communities and gaudy shopping centers surrounded the base of the mountain, but no one, not one brave soul, had ever tried to climb its steep slopes.

- An intriguing description
 - A compelling quote or strong piece of dialogue
 - A thoughtful question
9. Read the following description of Joe's narrative essay about organic farming. Then, identify the strongest strategy for concluding this narrative.

Joe's narrative followed USDA certified organic farmers who had labored for years to establish and nurture their crops, then market and distribute their homegrown produce. Kenyan Walters, a farmer from Idaho, is at the center of the narrative, supported by evidence from four others. The farmers knew they had achieved success when they could walk into their local grocery store and find their own produce offered alongside major brands like Dole and Chiquita.

- Joe should summarize each farmer's experience from beginning to end, just to be sure his readers remembered the process.
 - Joe should describe Kenyan Walters reflecting on the day he decided to become a farmer and considering how this journey impacted him.
 - Joe should directly tell his readers the life lessons they can learn from reading his narrative.
10. Read the following narrative excerpt. Which sentence contains a flash-forward?

The FBI's recruitment activity in the nearby mall created a mess of traffic. Anni sang along to the radio as she waited behind a red Chevy pickup truck. In a few short months, she will be in Coronado, CA, training for the next phase of her life as a Navy SEAL. For now, she's doing all she can to stay confident as she prepares for the recruitment fair.

Lesson 2.3: Expository Writing

11. Which question would *not* help you write a strong conclusion?

- What do I want my readers to learn?
- What do I want my readers to take away?
- Why is my main idea important?
- What new evidence can I provide for my readers?

12. Read the following scenario. Identify the question that would help Sarah write the strongest conclusion.

Sarah is working on a big paper for her art class, and she's using the following questions to draft a conclusion: How can I present a strong takeaway message? How can I introduce my thesis? How can I write this quickly?

13. Read the following scenario. Which organizational strategy would be most effective for Bhavya's purpose?

Bhavya is writing an essay for business class. The prompt asks students to argue the best strategy for winning over new consumers using social media. She must cite three sources and include anecdotes from her own experiences to prove her points. She must present multiple reasons that show why her strategy is the best option.

- Order of importance
- Chronological order
- Spatial order

14. Which conclusion most effectively answers the following question?

What should the audience take away from the essay?

- “All in all, the horror film *It Follows* has interesting characters, a good plot, and scary music. It also has an interesting message about life.”
- “As we have seen, *It Follows* is a good horror movie because it features compelling characters, an original plot, and surprising music cues. The film is also an allegory for depression.”
- “*It Follows* is a rare horror film because it features more than just jump scares or gore. It exemplifies how movies can offer unique perspectives on mental illness. It is worth watching (or rewatching) and deserves more recognition from film critics and scholars.”

15. Which sentence in the following passage serves as a hook?

Leonard Cohen once said, “When things get bad, you just raise your glass and stamp your feet and do a little jig, and that’s about all you can do.” Indeed, sometimes in our worst moments we panic and try to do too much instead of resigning ourselves to the situation. With that in mind, here are four practical and healthy ways to cope with bad news.

Lesson 2.4: Persuasive Writing

16. Read the following passage. Which sentence cites the weakest source?

Vera couldn't believe that she'd sprained her ankle just by walking across the street and tripping in a pothole. She ended up contacting Community Improvement Coalition (CIC), an advocacy group in her city. The director, Jamila Davies, gave Vera plenty of data and publications on pothole-related injuries and briefed her on the challenges of street repair. Vera's smart younger brother Max claimed that he heard the city was moving its street-repair funds into other projects instead of using them as intended.

17. Read the following passage. Which sentence states an opinion?

You seem more collected today than you did yesterday. Yesterday, you poured orange juice into your cereal. You also misplaced a grocery list, which I later found in the garbage.

18. What is the thesis statement in the following passage?

Unfortunately, some pet owners see responsibility and love for their animal as optional instead of unconditional. More than two thousand dogs were dropped off at the local animal shelter last year, and this year's drop-off rate is projected to be even higher. The volunteers care for these animals who have been dismissed, neglected, and unprioritized. Local animal shelters and volunteer staff deserve more recognition and financial support from their community.

19. What kind of evidence is used in the following sentence?

In a four-hour period last Tuesday afternoon, fifteen cars ran through the stop sign at the corner of Talon Street and Wing Road.

- Expert analysis
- Fact
- Opinion

20. Read the following thesis statement for a persuasive paper. Then, identify the most effective opening sentence for the paper's conclusion.

In today's social media climate, we need new laws that criminalize cyberbullying as a serious offense to protect the mental, physical, and emotional wellbeing of young people.

- Simply put, because so many children have suffered from social media bullying, lawmakers must criminalize cyberbullying.
- So what should we do to end cyberbullying?
- Cyberbullying has become more and more prevalent as social media use has increased.