

Chapter 6 Exercises

Lesson 6.1: Understanding an Argument

1. Consider the following scenario. Identify whether the situation represents a quarrel or an argument.

Zedd wants to convince his friend Nina to donate to diabetes research since his father died of the disease. Not only does Zedd tell Nina his father's story, but he also provides statistics about the disease to emphasize the importance of donating to medical treatment research.

- This scenario represents a quarrel.
 This scenario represents an argument.

2. Read the following passage. Identify the type of evidence used.

In the 1980s and before, there weren't many FDA-approved ADHD medications for children, but they increased rapidly in the 1990s after the introduction of long-acting formulations. Still, my doctor prescribed me Cylert. In college, I was surprised to learn that I could have developed liver failure as a result of taking the drug. That was when I began researching holistic alternatives to medication.

- Description Anecdote Expert analysis

3. Read the following passage. Identify the type of evidence used.

Dr. Millie Simpson has completed award-winning research over the years on character similarities among twins and triplets. Recently, Dr. Simpson found that an identical twin is more likely to sleepwalk if their twin is also a sleepwalker.

- Description Anecdote Expert analysis

Lesson 6.2: Considering Purpose and Audience

4. Imagine that you've been tasked with a writing assignment. Your writing purpose is to argue your viewpoint, and the context is a formal, academic essay. Which writing strategy is most fitting for the purpose and context?

- Writing to your family as the audience.
 Developing an informal voice.
 Establishing your claim clearly and concisely within the first paragraph.

5. Consider the following scenario. Identify the purpose of this task.

Before a class discussion can take place, your English professor has asked everyone to write out their thoughts and reactions to the short story "A Rose for Emily" by William Faulkner that was assigned for homework.

- To persuade To inform To respond

6. Read the following writing assignment prompt. Identify the sentence that specifies the audience of this assignment.

Your final presentation should explore the reasons why our city should eliminate the existing curfew for teenagers between the ages of fifteen and eighteen. Because you've brainstormed and researched this topic already, it should make your composition process easier. Make sure you write to state representatives and acknowledge their expertise through your use of formal, factual language. Feel free to add any images you'd like, and use 12-point Times New Roman font.

Lesson 6.3: Recognizing Constraints

7. Ike is writing a historical report about the Battle of Gettysburg, and his purpose is to inform the audience. What information fits within the constraints of his writing situation? Identify all that apply.
- A discussion of key events that occurred leading up to the battle and during it
 - A description of the Battle of Antietam, another famous Civil War battle
 - An explanation of why the battle is considered a turning point in the Civil War
 - An argument about the modern symbolism of the Confederate flag
8. Identify the type of constraint described in the following scenario.
- Carmen knew that her presentation might take place in a large room full of two hundred people, so she brought her own microphone in case it was necessary.
- Audience constraints Situational constraints Delivery constraints
9. Identify the type of constraint described in the following scenario.
- Kenny was planning to write his essay arguing for looser gun laws, but a few days ago, a shooting took place at a nearby high school. Now, he's not sure whether his topic is appropriate in light of the incident.
- Audience constraints Situational constraints Delivery constraints

Lesson 6.4: Employing Rhetorical Appeals

10. Read the following passage. Identify the sentence that makes an appeal to *logos*.

Some individuals believe that increasing the legal drinking age would reduce drunk driving accidents. However, regardless of the legal age limit, underage drinking will likely remain a formidable problem. According to a recent survey, 74% of two thousand young adults between the ages of thirteen and twenty feel as though average underage alcohol consumption would not fluctuate even if the legal drinking age was changed.

11. Identify the argument that establishes an *ethos*-based argument.
- A campus speech code should be implemented based on the number of incidents of hate speech-induced violence over the last year.
 - LeBron James is equally important to the NBA as Michael Jordan based on the testimony of a professional basketball player and two sports journalists.
 - Early childhood care should be provided for all parents at no cost to give every child a chance to succeed and foster learning in the formative years.
12. Consider the following scenario. Identify the sentence that appeals to *pathos*.
- Ms. Greene is giving a tour of her farm to elementary school students. She knows that children can be afraid of large animals and easily excited, so she speaks in a quiet voice and takes them for a walk around the garden before visiting the animals. She also shares her background as a lifelong agriculturalist and her successes in the farming industry.
13. Read the following statement. Identify the strategy Fred has used to establish an appeal to *ethos*.
- In an essay about environmental stewardship, Fred avoids over-simplifying the issue by discussing common barriers that interfere with some people's understanding of environmental changes and threats.
- Recognizing the complexity of an issue
 - Conveying knowledgeability
 - Demonstrating fair judgment

Lesson 6.5: Using Consistent Tone

14. Write a brief paragraph describing your day so far. Through careful word choice, establish a positive tone (even if your day has not necessarily been positive). Highlight or underline the positive words in your paragraph.
15. Identify the tone that would be most appropriate for a research paper on the life cycle of Asian beetles.
- Positive Negative Neutral
16. Read the following passage. Identify the sentence with an inconsistent tone from the rest of the paragraph.

Brian Doyle was a Catholic writer from Oregon who had written many books across a variety of genres, including fiction, essay, and poetry. He had an ability to meld writing on nature and faith that both reflected his faith and remained accessible to a broad reading audience. He also pushed grammatical boundaries by working with run-on sentences that lacked punctuation. During his lifetime, most people ignored him and refused to give him the recognition he deserved.

Lesson 6.6: Choosing the Right Words

17. Read the following incomplete sentence. Identify the word group that is the most concise option to fill in the blank.

My _____ went one hour over the allotted time.

- study group that dissects national impacts of ethics
 meeting in a classroom with scenarios about ethics
 ethics class
18. Read the following sentence. Identify the jargon that may confuse an audience without medical experience.

After cutting his foot, Jonah developed severe sepsis and needed to receive treatment right away.

19. Read the following sentence. Identify the revised version that is both concise and true to the original meaning.

The budding artist is a hard worker who practices drawing mostly every day and is always becoming better, it seems.

- The artist is clearly budding because she works hard and improves almost daily as a result of practicing her drawing.
 The budding artist works hard and practices drawing almost daily.
 The budding artist is one who practices hard and works on drawing pretty much daily.

Lesson 6.7: Using Word and Sentence Variety

20. Read the following sentence. Identify the word that is *not* an effective synonym for *weak*.

Having just turned eighty-three, Janice felt weak most days, even after brief excursions.

- formal infirm feeble frail

21. Read the following sentences. Identify the revised version that correctly combines these sentences with a semicolon.

Missy felt most energized and invigorated when she visited New York City. Having grown up in the countryside, she felt that the city was full of excitement and activity.

- Missy felt most energized and invigorated when she visited New York City, and having grown up in the countryside, she felt that the city was full of excitement and activity.
- Missy felt most energized and invigorated when she visited New York City; having grown up in the countryside, she felt that the city was full of excitement and activity.
- Missy felt most energized and invigorated when she visited New York City, and having grown up in the countryside; she felt that the city was full of excitement and activity.

22. Identify the best synonym for the following word.

looked

- sped peered ignored stated

23. Read the following passage. Identify the sentence that uses an introductory adjective to add variety.

Zion spent all night studying for his physics final exam. Exhausted, he headed into the testing center at 8:00 a.m. He was so tired that by the end, he wasn't sure how he did. All he wanted to do was go back to his comfortable bed, but instead he trudged to his next class.

Lesson 6.8: Polishing an Argument

24. Read the following passage. Identify the sentence that has an inconsistent tone from the rest of the passage.

You should have seen that cat scurry across the room! He was so startled that I thought he might leap to the ceiling. He was fine, and we ended up laughing about it. Research has in fact shown that feline psychologies are more susceptible to apprehension than humans.

25. Read the following passage. Identify the verb that uses a different tense from the rest of the passage.

Recycling more will reduce pollution, and it will also reduce the average daily household waste. Commercial waste was a significant factor in the growth of landfills. Still, improving our personal recycling habits will be an important part of protecting the earth from pollution for years to come.

26. Rewrite the following passage, correcting the point of view inconsistencies so that the passage uses only third-person point of view.

The travelers took a bus, but we got off at the wrong stop. Fortunately, we weren't far from our destination, so they walked the rest of the way. In the heart of the city, colorful banners were draped across the street to provide shade. As our group navigated the bustling streets, vendors offered them delicious food, and musicians seemed to be on every corner.

Lesson 6.9: Responding Critically to Literature

27. Read the following literary response excerpt. Identify the sentence that includes the counterargument/rebuttal.

The characters in Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations* have unique expectations that influence how they measure success and fulfillment. Given that the novel is set in nineteenth-century England, when the Industrial Revolution was beginning, there is a fresh obsession with socioeconomic status and the growing separation of classes. It appears as though every character has a goal or status they are working toward except Joe. Joe is generally portrayed, by his outward actions, as a character who is content. Some critics agree with this surface-level assumption that Joe is satisfied with his life, social status, class standing, and the success of everyone around him; however, through analyzing Joe's dialogue, interactions, and narration from Pip's point of view, Joe's character is not so satisfied. Joe's character throughout *Great Expectations* illustrates his true dissatisfaction with his own social class and the social hierarchy of nineteenth-century England in general.

28. Read the following excerpt from Alice Walker's novel *The Third Life of Grange Copeland*. Then, write two to three sentences analyzing Walker's use of diction. What can you infer about Brownfield's feelings toward his mother based on the language?

His mother smiled at Brownfield, one of her rare sudden smiles that lit up her smooth, heart-shaped face. Her skin was a rich brown with a creamy reddish sheen. Her teeth were small and regular and her breath was always sweet with a milky cleanness. Brownfield had hands like hers, long, thin, aristocratic hands, with fingers meant for jewels. His mother had no wedding ring, however. (Walker 4)

29. Which form of literary criticism focuses on exploring the unconscious anxieties, desires, and thoughts of the characters and/or author as indicated through symbols and other literary elements?
- Gender/queer criticism
 - Psychoanalytic criticism
 - Postcolonial criticism
 - Critical race theory
30. Think of the last book you read for school, work, or in your personal life. Write two to three sentences describing its genre and overall theme(s). Be sure to provide reasoning and support for why you feel it aligns with the conventions of that genre/theme.