

Chapter 4: Grammar and Mechanics

Project Assignment

Goal

In Chapter 4, you studied the parts of speech, types of punctuation, and sentence development. You will demonstrate your knowledge by annotating specific components of grammar and mechanics in a short essay.

Directions

Part 1

Actively read the essay “My Adventures in Italy,” provided in the Materials section.

Part 2

Use a word processing program or writing tools to annotate the essay according to the following directions. Note that there may be more than one correct answer. When you are finished, you should have at least twelve annotations.

- Use a solid underline to mark a sentence that uses commas to form a list.
- Use a dashed underline to mark a compound sentence that uses a coordinating conjunction.
- Use a dotted underline to mark a prepositional phrase functioning as an adjective.
- Use a zig-zag  underline to mark a subordinating clause.
- Use a cloud  to outline an adverb that modifies an adjective.
- Use a rectangle  to mark a compound subject.
- Use a circle  to mark a singular, first-person pronoun.
- Use an oval  to mark a relative pronoun.
- Use an equals sign = to mark a singular, present-tense linking verb.
- Use a triangle  to mark an irregular action verb.
- Use a dashed circle  to mark a past participle with a helping verb.
- Use a diamond  to mark a dash that links two words or word parts.

Materials

Word processing program or paper and writing tool

“My Adventures in Italy” essay:

My Adventures in Italy

I have visited places like Florida, Texas, Hawaii, and Tennessee. However, until recently, I had not been out of the United States. This past summer, I had the opportunity to go to Italy. There were many exciting places to see. My favorite parts of the Italian adventure were the Colosseum, the island of Murano, and the food.

The Colosseum was interesting in many ways. For one, it was huge. Pictures make the Colosseum look smaller than it really is. The structure has served as a model for modern football stadiums because it is elliptical and multistoried. The Colosseum and modern stadiums are both used for live theatrical entertainment; however, in ancient Rome the contest was between the gladiator, or fighter, and a wild animal or another gladiator. I also learned that the “games” were rigged. If the emperor wanted the

gladiator to lose, the animals would not be fed so they would be hungry. If the emperor wanted the gladiator to win, the animals would be fed and sedated. The floor also had sand on top of it to hide trap doors, which the animals could jump through.

My next favorite place was the island of Murano, which is off the coast of Venice and is known for glassmaking. The glass came in many colors, shapes, and sizes. For example, there were glass grapes the size of small beads, but there was also a glass horse the size of a full-grown mustang. My mom and I bought souvenirs. I chose a blue unicorn with gold feet and a gold horn. Mom brought back a pair of small, cube-shaped earrings. They are very shiny and create rainbows when light shines through them.

Another big reason I wanted to go to Italy was because of the food. I have always liked Italian food. My expectations were exceeded, especially when it came to pizza. Pizza is an extremely popular dish in Italy. One person eats a whole pizza, unlike in the United States. In addition to the pizza, I also enjoyed the pasta. The pasta is homemade. The sauces are made from fresh vegetables and herbs. After every delicious meal came an even better desert. Gelato, Italian ice cream, is amazing. There are many flavors, such as pistachio, caramel, and coffee, which was my favorite. Italian food is the best food I have ever eaten.

Italy is an incredibly fun place to visit. I saw many ancient buildings and tasted amazing food. I strongly recommend going to Italy for a vacation. I would not mind going back. Until then, *arrivederci*, which is “goodbye” in Italian.

☒ Checklist

- ☐ The essay “My Adventures in Italy” has been read carefully
- ☐ The following things in the essay are marked:
 - ☐ A sentence that uses commas to form a list
 - ☐ A compound sentence that uses a coordinating conjunction
 - ☐ A prepositional phrase functioning as an adjective
 - ☐ A subordinating clause
 - ☐ An adverb that modifies an adjective
 - ☐ A compound subject
 - ☐ A singular, first-person pronoun
 - ☐ A relative pronoun
 - ☐ A singular, present-tense linking verb
 - ☐ An irregular action verb
 - ☐ A past participle with a helping verb
 - ☐ A dash that links two words or word parts



Writing Assignment

Goal

The goal of this writing assignment is to apply your knowledge of grammar, mechanics, and proofreading to your own writing.

Directions

Part 1

Everyone has been scared at some point in life. Think of a time when you were scared. Write a well-developed paragraph describing the experience. What happened, and how did you feel afterward? Include many details so readers can create a picture of the event in their minds. Try to answer the following questions:

- Why were you scared?
- Where did the incident take place?
- What emotions were involved?
- What did you see, hear, smell, taste, and/or feel?
- What actions did you take? What were the results of those actions?
- If others were involved, what were their reactions?
- How was the situation resolved?

Part 2

Proofread your paragraph using the proofreading checklist for grammatical sentences, provided in the Materials section. Make changes to your paragraph until you can mark Y (yes) or N/A (not applicable) in the Status column for each list item. Include detailed, specific comments to help you remember the changes you make.

Materials

Word processing program or paper and writing tool

Proofreading checklist:

	Proofreading Considerations	Status	Comments
Sentence structure	There are no comma splices.		
	There are no fragments.		
	There are no fused sentences.		
Agreement	All subjects agree with their verbs.		
	All pronouns agree with their antecedents.		

	Proofreading Considerations	Status	Comments
Punctuation	All commas are used correctly.		
	All semicolons and colons are used correctly.		
	All apostrophes are used correctly.		
	All quotation marks parentheses, and brackets are used correctly.		
	All ellipses, hyphens, and dashes are used correctly.		
Spelling	Capitalization and italics are used correctly.		
	Abbreviations and numbers are used and formatted correctly.		
	All words are spelled correctly.		
	Commonly confused words (except/accept, etc.) are used correctly.		

☒ Checklist

- ☐ A well-developed paragraph has been written that answers the prompt
- ☐ The paragraph has been proofread with the proofreading checklist and revised if needed
- ☐ The paragraph has no errors in sentence structure, agreement, punctuation, or spelling