

**GRADE 7**  
**Writing**

**Administered April 2019**

**RELEASED**



# WRITING



# WRITTEN COMPOSITION

## WRITTEN COMPOSITION: Expository

**READ** the following quotation.

Other people may be there to help us, teach us, guide us along our path, but the lesson to be learned is always ours.

—*Anonymous*

**THINK** carefully about the following question.

Is it better for people to learn from others, or is it better for people to learn on their own?

**WRITE** an essay explaining the best way to learn new things.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your controlling idea
- organize and develop your explanation effectively
- choose your words carefully
- use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and sentences

USE THIS PREWRITING PAGE TO  
PLAN YOUR COMPOSITION.

MAKE SURE THAT YOU WRITE YOUR COMPOSITION ON  
THE LINED PAGE IN THE ANSWER DOCUMENT.

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# REVISING

**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.**

*In the following paper, Thomas wrote about a place that is very important to him. Read Thomas's paper and look for revisions he should make. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.*



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## **My Own Special Place**

(1) A tiny stream trickles around my toes, and old live oak trees lean over the rock I am sitting on. (2) No one knows I am here except for the blue jay that caws at me from his perch on a branch. (3) I am in my favorite place on Earth, the mountain basin and basalt cliffs behind my house. (4) I am only a couple of miles from a shopping mall, but it feels like I am surrounded by a forest far from civilization.

(5) This basin wasn't always such a natural paradise. (6) A few years ago, when my family moved to this neighborhood, the canyon was like a garbage dump. (7) Stinky, stagnant pools had formed in the stream. (8) It was clogged with trash left behind by visitors exploring the area. (9) Somehow, as ugly as it was, my family saw its potential.

(10) Our family walked door-to-door in our neighborhood and met people who had never been in the basin or climbed the cliffs. (11) Some of them had lived right next to it for decades but had never hiked down the trails. (12) We met families like

ours that wanted to claim their own place in nature. (13) Like us, they didn't need to climb Mount Everest or go to a national park. (14) They just wanted a place to call their own. (15) Best of all, they were willing to work as hard as they could to make things better.

(16) We worked with all of them to organize basin cleanups in order to get rid of the trash. (17) We climbed down the cliffs into the basin with shovels, trash bags, and spades to remove the trash left by irresponsible explorers. (18) We also used rocks to raise the banks of the stream so that water could flow through the basin once again. (19) Once we were finished, we waited for nature to get to work.

(20) The first year after we cleaned out the bed of the stream, the basin was bare and ugly. (21) But something strange happened. (22) By the end of the year, grass and plants that were hidden by trash began to grow. (23) I've always loved the smell of freshly cut grass. (24) The stream began to flow after winter rains, and more animals began to wander into the area to nibble in the clean, grassy basin.

(25) My brother and I went to the stream. (26) My brother was walking at a steady pace, but suddenly he stopped and held up his hand. (27) "Shh," he whispered. (28) Up ahead about 10 yards, I could see a doe drinking from the creek, her head bent down. (29) I must have stepped on a dry leaf, because suddenly her ears popped up, and she looked right at us. (30) Then she sprang off into the woods.

(31) A multitude of animals are now making their home in the basin. (32) In late spring, the sides of the cliffs echo with the music that is the music of tiny tree frogs. (33) I like to think they are celebrating, saying, "Hooray for our home" with every croak.

(34) Now, whenever I can, I hike on my own down the cliffs and into the basin. (35) Even though the land doesn't belong to me—it belongs to the whole city—it feels like *my* basin. (36) I saved it, look after it, and to love it.

- 1 Thomas needs to add a sentence to the end of the second paragraph (sentences 5–9) to bring the paragraph to a more effective closing. Which of the following should be added after sentence 9 to help close this paragraph?
- A The basin is very different from anything I had seen before.
  - B We knew it was wrong to leave trash in the basin.
  - C The basin was a place that deserved to be saved.
  - D I wanted to explore the basin the first time I saw it.
- 

- 2 The meaning of sentence 16 is unclear. What change should Thomas make to improve the clarity of this sentence?
- F Change ***all of them*** to **our neighbors**
  - G Change ***organize*** to **plan**
  - H Change ***get rid of*** to **cancel**
  - J Change ***the trash*** to **it**
- 

- 3 Thomas has included an extraneous sentence in the fifth paragraph (sentences 20–24). Which sentence should be deleted from this paragraph?
- A Sentence 20
  - B Sentence 21
  - C Sentence 22
  - D Sentence 23

- 4** Thomas would like to provide a better transition between the fifth paragraph (sentences 20–24) and the sixth paragraph (sentences 25–30). Which of the following should replace sentence 25 to achieve this goal?
- F** One day my brother and I hiked down the cliffs into the basin to explore the stream.
  - G** Then my brother and I hurried to visit the stream to see the flowing water.
  - H** After a while my brother and I decided to go hiking, and we traveled to the stream.
  - J** In the meantime my brother and I thought it would be fun to explore the stream.
- 

- 5** What is the most effective way to revise sentence 32?
- A** In late spring the sides of the cliffs echo with the music of tiny tree frogs.
  - B** In late spring the sides of the cliffs echo with the music of tiny tree frogs, and it is music.
  - C** In late spring the sides of the cliffs echo with the musical echoes of tiny tree frogs.
  - D** In late spring the sides of the cliffs echo music, and it is the music of tiny tree frogs.
- 

- 6** What is the best way to revise sentence 36?
- F** I saved it, looking after it, and I love it.
  - G** I saved it, to look after it, and love it.
  - H** I saved it, looking after it, and to love it.
  - J** I saved it, I look after it, and I love it.

**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your document.**

*Akina wrote a paper about how sounds in movies are made. Read Akina's paper and look for the revisions she needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.*



A Foley Artist Making Sounds with a Shoe

## The Art of Making Noise

(1) A gust of wind whooshes through the trees, and footsteps crunch across leaves on the ground. (2) These are just a few of the sounds filmgoers hear when watching a movie. (3) Most people assume all of the sounds they hear during movies were recorded during filming, but that isn't always the case. (4) They are usually made after filming by special artists.

(5) The microphones used during the filming of a movie focus primarily on the actor's voices. (6) Background noises and sound effects cannot be adequately recorded during filming. (7) These include such things as roaring cars, galloping horses, or the gentle tapping of pencils on desks. (8) A Foley artist must recreate those sounds and then add them to the film at the appropriate moments. (9) Without these talented professionals, movie action would be noticeably quiet and bland.

(10) The pioneer in adding realistic sounds to film was a man named Jack Foley. (11) Foley was working in California when filmmakers introduced sound into movies in the late 1920s. (12) At that time sounds in movies consisted primarily of the music and the voices of the actors. (13) Foley believed that if viewers could hear

other sounds, the on-screen story would feel more genuine. (14) He met with some film producers and proposed his ideas to them. (15) Soon Foley was working to make films more realistic and by improving the background sounds with moviemakers.

(16) Today Foley artists use simple materials and methods to produce realistic sounds. (17) Most Foley artists work in large movie studios filled with all sorts of props, including glass and metal objects, a variety of shoes, and piles of sand, gravel, or dirt. (18) A Foley artist might have a person walk over cornstarch covered in cornflakes to create the sound of a person walking on crunchy snow. (19) Foley artists might smack empty coconut shells against a dirt pile to create the sound of a galloping horse. (20) Foley artists continually have to find creative ways to make sounds that match actions in a film.

(21) Although Foley artists have been around for decades, few people have ever heard of them. (22) But many of these artists say that is just fine with them. (23) If Foley artists can create sounds that nobody can tell are fake, then they know they are successful.

(24) Only a few hundred people have ever become Foley artists. (25) Foley artists must always be thinking of new ways to make noises that sound real on film. (26) They must carefully listen to the sounds around them and try to think about the materials that can best repeat those sounds. (27) They have to ask themselves questions like, "What will sound most like the rustle of that breeze? (28) What could I do to recreate the screech of a braking train? (29) How can I make a sound that is like the pitter patter of rain?" (30) The work is hard, but most Foley artists say it is quite enjoyable. (31) When watching movies, think about the sounds, and remember that a Foley artist most likely created them.

*Third party trademark Universal Studios® was used in these testing materials.*

- 7** Which of the following should replace sentence 4 to effectively state the controlling idea of this paper?
- A** There are professionals known as Foley artists, and they got their name from Jack Foley, who was the first Foley artist.
  - B** Many of the sound effects that movie audiences hear are made by Foley artists, film industry professionals whose work is done after the filming of a movie is complete.
  - C** The sounds that you and I hear when we go to see a movie were not always made when the movie was being recorded.
  - D** Professionals create the things that are in the background in movies, including galloping horses, pelting rain, and chirping crickets.
- 

- 8** What is the most effective way to combine sentences 6 and 7?
- F** Background noises and sound effects cannot be adequately recorded during filming these, including such things as roaring cars, galloping horses, or the gentle tapping of pencils on desks.
  - G** Background noises and sound effects cannot be adequately recorded during filming when they include such things as roaring cars, galloping horses, or the gentle tapping of pencils on desks.
  - H** Background noises and sound effects, such as roaring cars, galloping horses, or the gentle tapping of pencils on desks, cannot be adequately recorded during filming.
  - J** Background noises and sound effects cannot be adequately recorded because such things as these roaring cars, galloping horses, or the gentle tapping of pencils on desks are included during filming.



- 9** Akina wants to add support for the idea she has presented in sentence 13. Which sentence should replace sentence 13 to help accomplish this goal?
- A** Foley believed that if viewers, people who were watching the movie, could hear other sounds, the on-screen story, or the movie itself, the movie would feel more genuine and real.
  - B** Foley believed that if viewers could hear other sounds, the on-screen story of the movie would feel more genuine and more real to them.
  - C** Foley believed something and that is if viewers could hear other sounds, the story being told by the movie would feel more genuine.
  - D** Foley believed that if viewers could hear other sounds, such as heels clicking, dresses rustling, or water sloshing, the story of the movie would feel more genuine.
- 

**10** What is the most effective revision to make in sentence 15?

- F** Soon Foley was working to make films more realistic as he was improving the background sound with moviemakers.
  - G** Soon Foley was working with moviemakers to make more realistic films by improving the background sounds.
  - H** Soon Foley was working to improve the background sound with moviemakers and to make films more realistic.
  - J** Soon Foley was working to make more realistic films by improving the moviemakers and background sounds.
- 

**11** What is the most effective transition to add to the beginning of sentence 19?

- A** Fortunately
- B** Finally
- C** As a result
- D** In addition

- 12** Akina has not used the most effective word in sentence 26. Which change should she make to improve this sentence?
- F** Change *carefully* to *slowly*
  - G** Change *listen to* to *understand*
  - H** Change *think about* to *study*
  - J** Change *repeat* to *imitate*
- 

- 13** Akina would like to add the following sentence to the last paragraph (sentences 24–31).

*Perhaps that is because of the creativity and attention to detail that the job requires.*

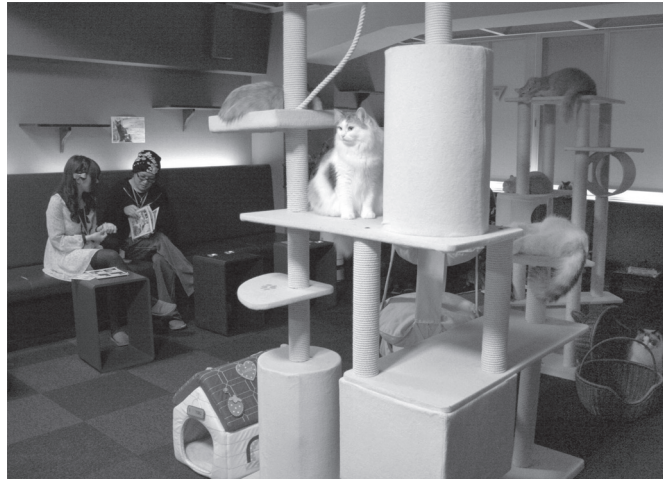
Where should this sentence be inserted?

- A** After sentence 24
- B** After sentence 25
- C** After sentence 28
- D** After sentence 29

# EDITING

**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.**

*Brian learned about an interesting place for cats. He wrote a paper to share what he learned. Read Brian's paper and look for any corrections he needs to make. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.*



## **Cat Cafés**

(1) Many people believe that animals make great companions. (2) To some, there isn't nothing better than having a dog or cat sit closely beside them. (3) Having a cuddly pet can be comforting. (4) Although both dogs and cats are the most common domestic pets, American society has long seemed to favor dogs. (5) It is more common to see dogs rather than cats in public. (6) Walking a dog in the neighborhood is a nightly ritual for many owners. (7) Specially trained service dogs are allowed into stores, hospitals, and some restaurants. (8) There is even parks made especially for dogs. (9) On the other hand, public acceptance of cats seems to be lacking. (10) Thanks to the increasing number of cat cafés, that situation is rapidly changing.

(11) Cat cafés are exactly what the name suggests, they are coffee shops that feature real, live cats. (12) Most shops are divided into two sections. (13) One section is a regular café where humans can purchase drinks and bakery or snack items. (14) The other section is dedicated to the café-owned cats. (15) This section is filled with climbing shelves and scratching posts for the cats to enjoy. (16) There

is seating in the cat section where customers can enjoy the friskyness of the felines. (17) If a customer is really lucky, a cat may curl up on his or her lap. (18) Unlike dog parks, the cat cafés do not allow people to bring your own pets due to health and sociability concerns.

(19) The café cats are usually adopted from local animal shelters or rescue organizations. (20) This helps ensure the cats are healthy and able to interact well with humans. (21) In many cases the café is the permanent home to the cats. (22) Some cafés even allow guests to adopt a cat of their own.

(23) Cat cafés are relatively new to America. (24) But have been popular in other areas of the world for some time. (25) The first cat café opened in Taiwan in the 1990s, and the idea soon spread to other areas of Asia. (26) Today hundreds of cat cafés can be found throughout Japan. (27) Many people who lived in Japan do not have enough room or extra time to care properly for a cat of their own. (28) Cat cafés offer those who love these animals a place to enjoy cats in what little time they can spare. (29) Cat cafés can also be found in Europe and Australia. (30) Major cities in the United States that now have cat cafés include New York City, Oakland, and Austin.

(31) Some people have questioned the likelihood of such places to succeed. (32) Consider, though, that cafés such as Meow parlour in Manhattan took reservations a month in advance to deal with the large number of people who wanted to visit. (33) Lady Dinah’s Cat Emporium in London started a reservation system because “20,000 people wanted to come into a 30-seat café all at the same time, says the founder, Lauren Pears.

(34) Clearly any question of the possible success of cat cafés can be put to rest. (35) Cat lovers finally can join dog enthusiasts in expressing their fondness for their favorite pet in a public area.

14 What change should be made in sentence 2?

- F Change **there** to **their**
  - G Change **isn't** to **is**
  - H Change **closely** to **closer**
  - J Change **them** to **it**
- 

15 What change, if any, needs to be made in sentence 8?

- A Change **is** to **are**
  - B Change **made** to **making**
  - C Change **especially** to **especialy**
  - D No change needs to be made in sentence 8.
- 

16 What is the correct way to write sentence 11?

- F Cat cafés are exactly what the name suggests, being coffee shops that feature real, live cats.
- G Cat cafés are exactly what the name suggests: coffee shops that feature real, live cats.
- H Cat cafés are exactly what the name suggests, and coffee shops that feature real, live cats.
- J Cat cafés are exactly what the name suggests. Coffee shops that feature real, live cats.

17 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 16?

- A Change ***cat section*** to **Cat Section**
  - B Change ***customers*** to **customer's**
  - C Change ***friskyness*** to **friskiness**
  - D Sentence 16 should not be changed.
- 

18 What change, if any, needs to be made in sentence 18?

- F Change the comma to a colon
- G Insert **never** before **allow**
- H Change **your** to **their**
- J No change needs to be made in this sentence.

19 What is the correct way to write sentences 23 and 24?

- A Cat cafés are relatively new to America but have been popular. In other areas of the world for some time.
  - B Cat cafés are relatively new to America and have been popular in other areas. Of the world for some time.
  - C Cat cafés are relatively new to America, they have been popular in other areas of the world for some time.
  - D Cat cafés are relatively new to America, but they have been popular in other areas of the world for some time.
- 

20 What change, if any, needs to be made in sentence 27?

- F Change *lived* to **live**
- G Insert a comma after *room*
- H Change *properly* to **proper**
- J No change is needed in sentence 27.

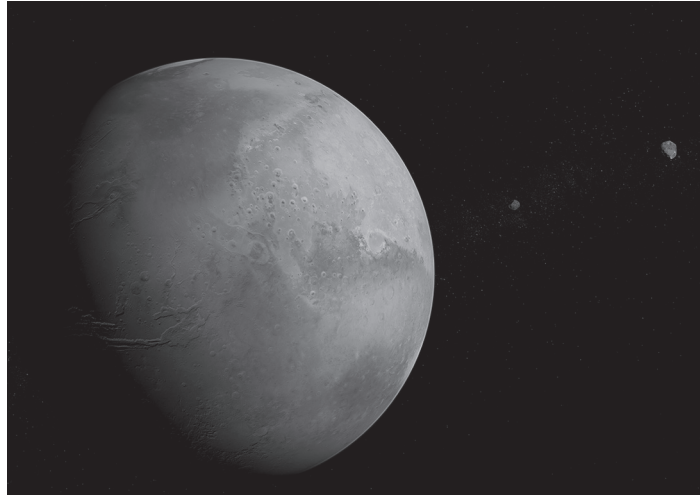


- 21** How should sentence 32 be changed?
- A** Change *parlour* to **Parlour**
  - B** Change *advance* to **advanced**
  - C** Change *large* to **larger**
  - D** Sentence 32 should not be changed.
- 

- 22** What change should be made in sentence 33?
- F** Insert a comma after **London**
  - G** Change *started* to **start**
  - H** Insert quotation marks before **says**
  - J** Change *founder* to **Founder**

**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.**

*José wrote the following persuasive essay in response to a class assignment. Read his paper and look for ways he should correct it before submitting it to his teacher. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.*



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## **A Colony on Mars**

(1) Mars, the red planet, is the fourth planet in our solar system. (2) It is one of Earth's closest neighbors. (3) For years scientists have wondered whether conditions on Mars might have once been suitable for life. (4) As a result, several unmanned spacecraft have been sent to explore the surface of the planet. (5) Some people think it is now time to send a manned spacecraft to the red planet to set up a colony. (6) Although the idea is certainly intriguing a human colony on Mars is not something the United States should pursue at this time.

(7) Even though Mars is the nearest planet to Earth, it is still millions of miles away. (8) It takes almost nine months for a spaceship to travel there. (9) If we were to set up a colony on Mars, missions to bring additional people and supply's would take just as long. (10) And if something were to go wrong on the colony, we wouldn't be able to send help in a timely manner. (11) The planet is simply to far away.

(12) Furthermore, we don't have the technology or experience to establish a successful colony on Mars. (13) Those in favor of a colony insist it can be built using technology that already exists. (14) However, some researchers at the Massachusetts institute of technology disagree. (15) They believe that in order for a

person to survive on the red planet for more than 68 days, new technology must be developed. (16) Chris Hadfield is a retired Canadian Space Agency astronaut, he also says there are problems with our current technology. (17) He thinks we need to gain experience in space colonization by building colonies closer to home first. (18) "We absolutely need to do it on the moon for a few generations," Hadfield insists.

(19) Aside from the distance and technology issues, there is another big problem associated with colonizing Mars. (20) It would be very expensive. (21) Some say the cost of establishing a colony there could be in the six-billion-dollar range, with an additional four billion dollars needed for each subsequent mission; NASA estimates the cost to be closer to \$100 billion. (22) Just imagine how that money could be used to help solve problems right here on Earth. (23) Those dollars could be spent on homes for the homeless, food for the hungry, and research to find cures for diseases. (24) Shouldn't we take care of the problems on our own planet before we send people to explore another one. (25) The money that would be invested in colonizing Mars could be much better spent here on Earth.

(26) Mars will continue to fascinate astronomers, explorers, and scientists. (27) Maybe a day will come when people will establish a colony there. (28) However, now is not that time. (29) The extreme distance, lack of necessary technology and experience, and excessive cost make a colony on Mars a bad idea for this generation.

23 What change needs to be made in sentence 6?

- A Change ***Although the idea*** to **The idea**
  - B Insert a comma after ***intriguing***
  - C Change ***something*** to **nothing**
  - D No change needs to be made in sentence 6.
- 

24 How should sentence 9 be changed?

- F Change ***were*** to **was**
- G Change the comma to a semicolon
- H Insert a comma after ***people***
- J Change ***supply's*** to **supplies**

25 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 11?

- A Change *is* to **was**
  - B Change *simply* to **simpley**
  - C Change *to far* to **too far**
  - D No change should be made in this sentence.
- 

26 How should sentence 14 be changed?

- F Change *researchers* to **researcher's**
- G Change *institute of technology* to **Institute of Technology**
- H Change *disagree* to **disagreeing**
- J Sentence 14 should not be changed.

27 What is the correct way to write sentence 16?

- A Chris Hadfield, a retired Canadian Space Agency astronaut, also says there are problems with our current technology.
  - B Chris Hadfield, a retired Canadian Space Agency astronaut, also saying there are problems with our current technology.
  - C Chris Hadfield is a retired Canadian Space Agency astronaut. Who also says there are problems with our current technology.
  - D Sentence 16 is written correctly in the paper.
- 

28 What change needs to be made in sentence 21?

- F Change **say** to **said**
- G Change **there** to **they're**
- H Delete **with**
- J Change **subsequent** to **subsequent**

29 What is the correct way to write sentence 23?

- A Those dollars could be spent on homes for the homeless. And on food for the hungry and research to find cures for diseases.
  - B Those dollars could be spent on homes for the homeless and food for the hungry. Also for research to find cures for diseases.
  - C Those dollars could be spent on homes for the homeless they could also be spent on food for the hungry and research to find cures for diseases.
  - D The sentence is written correctly in the paper.
- 

30 How should sentence 24 be changed?

- F Change ***we take care*** to **you take care**
- G Change ***our own planet*** to **our on planet**
- H Change the period to a question mark
- J Sentence 24 should not be changed.













**STAAR  
GRADE 7  
Writing  
April 2019**

