

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Great Writing 3: From Great Paragraphs to Great Essays Unit 7: Problem-Solution Essays

INSTRUCTIONS: Read each thesis statement. Choose the kind of essay it would be most likely to introduce.

- _____ 1. There are three main types of rocks: sedimentary, metamorphic, and igneous.
 - a. cause-effect
 - b. comparison
 - c. classification
 - d. problem-solution

- _____ 2. Popular music today is completely different from the popular music of a generation ago.
 - a. cause-effect
 - b. comparison
 - c. classification
 - d. problem-solution

- _____ 3. Modern technology has put our current methods of voting at risk, but it can also offer ways to respond to this risk.
 - a. cause-effect
 - b. comparison
 - c. classification
 - d. problem-solution

- _____ 4. The widespread use of mobile phones has pushed businesses, from banks to grocery stores to airlines, to develop mobile services for their customers.
 - a. cause-effect
 - b. comparison
 - c. classification
 - d. problem-solution

- _____ 5. There are several strategies schools can use to improve the declining math skills of students ages 10–16.
 - a. cause-effect
 - b. comparison
 - c. classification
 - d. problem-solution

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INSTRUCTIONS: Read the essay and answer the questions that follow.**The High Cost of Textbooks**

Textbooks are an important element of most education programs, but their cost has risen almost 100 percent in the last 15 years. University students pay an average of \$1,400 for their textbooks every year. A survey of recent college graduates revealed that 65 percent of them had tried to take a course without buying the textbook at some time during their college years. And it is not just textbooks themselves. Many introductory courses also require students to use the textbook publishers' online sites for practice activities or problems. One student described this as "paying to do homework." Many students cannot afford to buy all of their textbooks and related services. As a result, they often get lower grades. Some even have to leave school and never complete their degrees. In response, publishers, governments, universities, and students are all working to find solutions to this problem. Three of the best solutions are: rentals and used textbooks, e-books, and open-source material. While none of these solutions is perfect, they do offer some alternatives.

For students who do not want to keep the textbook after the course is over, buying a used book or renting a book is a good option. Many online booksellers offer rental as an option, and the rental cost is considerably lower than the purchase price. Since textbooks lose a great deal of their value when they are no longer new, used textbooks are often a fraction of the original price. Students often advertise books that they no longer need and sell them to other students, which means they can earn some of the money back from their original purchase.

Another option is the e-book. These are not available for all textbooks, but popular textbooks for introductory courses are often offered in electronic as well as print form. Some students prefer e-books because they are used to working with digital material. They can search for items more easily than in print books, and there is a wide range of digital tools for highlighting and taking notes electronically. Students can click on concepts and get definitions and explanations in an instant. In addition, many e-books have interactive features and demonstrations that would be impossible to offer in standard books. E-books are also lighter and, perhaps most importantly, cheaper than traditional print books.

Finally, universities themselves have become very concerned about the high cost of textbooks. This is particularly true at universities where many students come from low-income families. As a result, some universities are producing their own texts, offering content that is free and available on the Internet. Professors are also creating their own materials, drawing on their years of experience in teaching. These materials are generally either free or very inexpensive. These are sometimes referred to as "open-source" materials. The disadvantage of this approach is that they take a lot of time and energy to produce. However, they remove the barrier of high-cost materials, especially for low-income students, opening the door of education for many.

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Rentals and used books, e-books, and open-source materials are all good alternatives to buying expensive print textbooks. Renting allows students to use the print book format, which some students prefer. E-books offer the advantage of electronic features that may aid learning. For students with very tight budgets, open-source materials can fill a very real need. If students cannot afford to buy textbooks, this can have a negative effect on academic performance, which is not good for students, universities, or publishers. It is, therefore, in everyone's interest to find a way to lower the cost of all educational materials. All parties will need to work together to continue to address this important aspect of student life and success.

6. What problem does the writer identify?

7. Does the writer use a one-solution or a multiple-solution approach?

8. What solution(s) does the writer offer?

9. Which sentence in the conclusion restates the problem? Write it here.

10. What is the writer's "call to action"? Write it here.

GRAMMAR: Adverb Clauses**INSTRUCTIONS: Complete each sentence with the best subordinating conjunction.**

11. _____ (Once / Even if) a student understands the mathematical concepts, working out the problems becomes easier.
12. He acts _____ (although / as if) he were the owner of the business instead of an employee.
13. Children cannot reach the top shelf _____ (so that / even if) they stand on a chair.

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14. _____ (Because / Until) more people are choosing to live in the city, the demand for houses and apartments is rising.
15. Athletes often wear protective clothing or equipment _____ (so that / since) they do not get injured.

GRAMMAR: Sentence Types

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the two original sentences. Does the new sentence correctly combine the original sentences into the sentence type listed? Write “Y” for yes or “N” for no.

- _____ 16. Original sentences: Salaries have been rising since 2009. Most people are more optimistic now about their financial future.
New compound sentence: Salaries have been rising since 2009, so most people are more optimistic now about their financial future.
- _____ 17. Original sentences: Salaries have been rising since 2009. Prices on necessities such as food, gas, and medicine have been rising even more quickly.
New complex sentence: Even though salaries have been rising since 2009, prices on necessities such as food, gas, and medicine have been rising even more quickly.
- _____ 18. Original sentences: Buying a home is now within the reach of people who could not afford it before. Many people are buying their first homes.
New compound sentence: Many people are buying their first homes as buying a home is now within the reach of people who could not afford it before.
- _____ 19. Original sentences: Many people are buying their first homes. They are discovering that owning a home can be a challenge.
New complex sentence: Unless many people are buying their first homes, they are discovering that owning a home can be a challenge.

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the phrase. Choose the phrase that is most closely related to the meaning of the first phrase.

- _____ 20. overcome a problem
- a. allow a problem
 - b. create a problem
 - c. solve a problem

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- _____ 21. prioritize tasks
a. put tasks in order of importance
b. complete tasks quickly
c. assign tasks to others
- _____ 22. retention of information
a. responsibility for saving information
b. discovery of doubtful information
c. ability to remember information
- _____ 23. put off an assignment
a. postpone an assignment
b. cancel an assignment
c. complete an assignment
- _____ 24. a slight advantage
a. an unfair advantage
b. a crucial advantage
c. a small advantage
- _____ 25. deliver a message
a. adapt a message
b. give a message
c. delete a message

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete each sentence with the correct word or phrase from the box. You will not use all the words.

aspect come across content distraction focus prioritize sufficient survey task terrifying
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26. There are two people working on the website: one is responsible for the design, and the other person is responsible for the _____.
27. Some people _____ as shy when they are actually quite friendly.
28. Unfortunately, there are not _____ resources to offer a free university education to all students.
29. Group projects work best when each member is responsible for completing his or her own _____.

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30. The new public health efforts _____ on helping new mothers and their babies.
31. The city is taking a(n) _____ to determine whether the public is happy with the new shared bicycle program.
32. The most outstanding _____ of this novel is its fascinating character development.
33. When trying to study, the worst type of _____ for many people is loud noises.

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete each sentence with the correct word form.

34. Severe weather can often prevent or delay mail _____ (delivery / deliver / deliverable).
35. Toronto and Amsterdam are both culturally _____ (diversity / diversify / diverse) cities.
36. Travel to other countries can _____ (exposure / expose / exposed) people to new cultures, languages, and ideas.
37. In some countries, it is _____ (obligation / obligate / obligatory) to carry an identification card at all times.

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the shorter sentences. Choose the sentence that best combines the ideas of the shorter sentences.

- _____ 38. The store will sell all the televisions.
The store will offer the televisions at a low price.
The supply of televisions will run out soon.
- a. The store will sell the televisions at a low price until the supply runs out.
b. Because the store is selling televisions and the prices are low, the supply will run out soon.
- _____ 39. Prospective students may visit the university.
They must complete their applications before they visit.
The university is open for visits between March and May.
- a. Between March and May, the university is open to students who have completed their applications.
b. Prospective students who have completed their applications may visit the university between March and May.

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- _____ 40. The climbers brought extra clothing and special equipment.
They climbers were experienced.
The extra clothing and equipment made the climb safe and comfortable.
- a. The experienced climbers brought extra clothing and special equipment so that their climb would be safe and comfortable.
- b. The extra clothing and special equipment were safe and comfortable, and the climbers who were experienced brought them.

INSTRUCTIONS: Rewrite each sentence, correcting the error(s) in each. If there is no error, write “no error.”

41. There was a huge increase in population in the south, or there was a large rise in the population in the west as well.

42. The engineer seem to be the happier of all the people who have ever won this award.

43. The reason for the delay was not clearly, but now everything are under control.

44. The assignment, which the professor assigned late last week, is extremely time consuming.

45. Because the office was closed for a holiday on Monday. Everyone will have to working harder to meet the deadline.

Name: _____

46. **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write a problem-solution essay about a community, regional, or national problem that interests you. Use a one-solution or multiple-solution approach. Include a short introduction with a thesis statement, two or three body paragraphs, and a brief conclusion. Be sure to clearly explain the problem, why it is important, and the solution(s) you are proposing. Use at least two of the vocabulary words or phrases from Unit 7. Write at least 200 words.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Great Writing 3: From Great Paragraphs to Great Essays Unit 7: Problem-Solution Essays

Answer Section

1. ANS: C PTS: 2 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Elements
2. ANS: B PTS: 2 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Elements
3. ANS: D PTS: 2 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Elements
4. ANS: A PTS: 2 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Elements
5. ANS: D PTS: 2 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Elements

6. ANS:

Answers will vary. Suggested answer: the high cost of textbooks

PTS: 2 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Elements

7. ANS:

a multiple-solution approach

PTS: 2 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Elements

8. ANS:

Answers will vary. Suggested answer: renting or buying used books, e-books, and open-source materials

PTS: 2 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Elements

9. ANS:

Rentals and used books, e-books, and open-source materials are all good alternatives to buying expensive print textbooks.

PTS: 2 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Elements

10. ANS:

All parties will need to work together to continue to address this important aspect of student life and success.

PTS: 2 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Elements

11. ANS: Once

PTS: 1 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Grammar

12. ANS: as if

PTS: 1 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Grammar

13. ANS: even if

PTS: 1 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Grammar

14. ANS: Because

PTS: 1 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Grammar

15. ANS: so that

PTS: 1 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Grammar

16. ANS: Y PTS: 1 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Grammar

17. ANS: Y PTS: 1 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Grammar

18. ANS: N PTS: 1 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Grammar

19. ANS: N PTS: 1 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Grammar

20. ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Vocabulary

21. ANS: A PTS: 1 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Vocabulary

MSC: AW

22. ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Vocabulary

MSC: AW

23. ANS: A PTS: 1 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Vocabulary

24. ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Vocabulary

25. ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Vocabulary

26. ANS: content

PTS: 1 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Vocabulary

27. ANS: come across

PTS: 1 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Vocabulary

28. ANS: sufficient

PTS: 1 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Vocabulary MSC: AW

29. ANS: task

PTS: 1 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Vocabulary MSC: AW

30. ANS: focus

PTS: 1 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Vocabulary MSC: AW

31. ANS: survey

PTS: 1 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Vocabulary MSC: AW

32. ANS: aspect

PTS: 1 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Vocabulary MSC: AW

33. ANS: distraction

PTS: 1 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Vocabulary

34. ANS: delivery

PTS: 1 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Vocabulary

35. ANS: diverse

PTS: 1 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Vocabulary MSC: AW

36. ANS: expose

PTS: 1 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Vocabulary MSC: AW

37. ANS: obligatory

PTS: 1 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Vocabulary

38. ANS: A PTS: 1 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Sentences

39. ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Sentences

40. ANS: A PTS: 1 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Sentences

41. ANS:

There was a huge increase in population in the south, and there was a large rise in the population in the west as well.

PTS: 1 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Sentences

42. ANS:

The engineer seems to be the happiest of all the people who have ever won this award.

PTS: 1 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Sentences

43. ANS:

The reason for the delay was not clear, but now everything is under control.

PTS: 1 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Sentences

44. ANS:

no error

PTS: 1 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Sentences

45. ANS:

Because the office was closed for a holiday on Monday, everyone will have to work harder to meet the deadline.

PTS: 1 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Sentences

46. ANS:

Answers will vary.

PTS: 20 REF: Unit 7 TOP: Writing