

**GRADE 7**  
**Writing**

**Administered March 2016**

**RELEASED**



# WRITING



# WRITTEN COMPOSITION

## WRITTEN COMPOSITION: Expository

**READ** the information in the box below.

In the children's book *The Little Engine That Could*, an engine succeeds in pulling a train over a mountain by repeating the words "I think I can." The story is so well known and motivational that it has been used in many songs, films, speeches, and advertisements throughout popular culture.

**THINK** carefully about the following question.

Is a positive attitude necessary for success?

**WRITE** an essay explaining whether a positive attitude helps a person be successful.

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 AND EDITING

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

*Deena's teacher asked her to write a fictional story set in the 1800s. Deena wrote the following story, but before she submits it to her teacher, she would like for you to read it and look for any revisions she should make. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.*



## **The Lighthouse Girl**

(1) For as long as she could remember, Maggie had been surrounded by the sights and sounds of the sea. (2) Her father was a sailor and frequently went on long journeys. (3) When Maggie missed him, she would sit by the shore, and the sound of the waves was what she would listen to.

(4) Each night when twilight fell, Maggie would watch for the lamp to ignite in the window of the lighthouse on the coast. (5) Old Captain Frank manned the lamp inside, lighting the oil every night without fail and keeping it burning until morning. (6) Maggie loved to visit with Captain Frank. (7) He was a grizzled old sailor whose creaking joints had forced him to retire from a life at sea. (8) He never tired of telling Maggie his stories, and Maggie never tired of listening to them.

(9) Captain Frank had no wife or children, so he tended the lighthouse alone. (10) As Maggie grew older, he began teaching her about his job.

(11) One night Maggie woke from a sound sleep to hear the unmistakable crash of an angry sea. (12) She knew that a big storm was brewing. (13) It hadn't rained for weeks. (14) Maggie glanced out her window so that she might feel comforted by the steady glow of the lighthouse lamp. (15) But on this night no friendly light shone through the darkness. (16) The lamp had gone out! (17) Where was Captain Frank? (18) In this storm, how would the sailors know where to go to avoid the sharp rocks on the shoreline?

(19) Maggie quickly put her shawl around her shoulders and dashed out into the rain, pressing her body against the wind as she fought her way to the lighthouse. (20) There was no answer to her crazy knocks, so Maggie pushed her way inside. (21) She immediately saw the problem. (22) Captain Frank, huddled in a heap at the bottom of the stairs, had fallen down and broken his leg. (23) Maggie rushed to help him, but he shooed her away. (24) He explained that in time his leg would heal and he would be back to work as usual, but for now he couldn't relight the lamp!

(25) Maggie took the lead quickly. (26) Without hesitation she grabbed the heavy container of oil and dragged it up the steps to the top of the lighthouse. (27) She refilled the lamp and trimmed the wick. (28) In seconds, it was all better.

(29) The storm still shrieked outside, but the lighthouse lamp was burning brightly. (30) The ships would be safe, thanks to a brave young girl named Maggie.

**1** What is the most effective revision to make in sentence 3?

- A** Maggie would sit and listen to the sound of the waves when she missed him by the shore.
  - B** When Maggie missed him, she would sit by the shore she would listen to the sound of the waves.
  - C** Maggie would sit, and she would listen to the sound of the waves by the shore when she missed him.
  - D** When Maggie missed him, she would sit by the shore and listen to the sound of the waves.
- 

**2** What is the most effective way to combine sentences 6 and 7?

- F** Maggie loved to visit with Captain Frank while he was a grizzled old sailor whose creaking joints had forced him to retire from a life at sea.
  - G** Maggie loved to visit with Captain Frank, a grizzled old sailor whose creaking joints had forced him to retire from a life at sea.
  - H** Maggie loved to visit with Captain Frank and a grizzled old sailor whose creaking joints had forced him to retire from a life at sea.
  - J** Maggie loved to visit with Captain Frank, he was a grizzled old sailor whose creaking joints had forced him to retire from a life at sea.
- 

**3** Deena would like to add some details to strengthen her third paragraph (sentences 9–10). Which of the following can BEST be added after sentence 10 to accomplish this goal?

- A** Maggie learned how to light the lamp, trim the wick, and fetch the oil needed in order to keep the light burning all night long.
- B** His job was exciting and adventurous, and there were many interesting things for Maggie to learn while she was there.
- C** In that day and age, there was no one else to assist Captain Frank with the job that he had loved so much for so long.
- D** Being a lighthouse keeper was hard work, and although Maggie wasn't all that interested, she listened anyway.

4 Deena has included an extraneous sentence in the fourth paragraph (sentences 11–18). Which sentence should Deena delete from this paragraph?

F Sentence 12

G Sentence 13

H Sentence 15

J Sentence 16

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5 In sentence 20, Deena did not use the most appropriate word to describe Maggie’s knocks. Which of the following is the best replacement for the word **crazy**?

A foolish

B outrageous

C frantic

D haphazard

---

6 Deena wants to improve the transition between the fifth paragraph (sentences 19–24) and the sixth paragraph (sentences 25–28). Which of the following could BEST replace sentence 25 and help accomplish this goal?

F Maggie knew exactly what to do because she had been watching and listening to Captain Frank for years.

G To start with, Maggie was frightened and wasn’t quite sure what would be expected of her.

H After years of watching Captain Frank, Maggie knew that he would want her to wait for instructions.

J Maggie wanted to take the lead in this situation, so she did it without questioning the weather.

- 7 Deena wants to use a more effective and descriptive sentence to close the sixth paragraph (sentences 25–28). Which of the following could BEST replace sentence 28 and help accomplish this goal?
- A In seconds, the lighthouse and its occupants were all in a much better position.
  - B In seconds, she would ask Captain Frank for help with what she needed to do.
  - C In seconds, the light was on, and everything was fine in their part of the world.
  - D In seconds, a warm glow filled the lighthouse and beamed out its many windows.

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

Derek wrote the following paper in response to a class assignment. Read Derek's paper and look for any revisions he needs to make. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.



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## Animal Sleep

(1) Birds, mammals, and many other animals require sleep. (2) But when an animal is asleep, it's more vulnerable to predators. (3) As a result, they have systems. (4) Their sleep habits make our typical "climb in bed and pull up the covers" behavior seem boring by comparison.

(5) Some animals, such as dolphins and whales, can actually rest half of their brain at a time. (6) As one half of the animal's brain enters a sleep state, the other half of the animal's brain stays alert. (7) That way the animal can continue to watch for predators and come to the surface to breathe even as it sleeps.

(8) Other animals, such as horses, have the ability to lock their legs. (9) This allows them to remain standing while they're asleep. (10) If a predator comes near, they can make a quick escape. (11) Horses have bigger eyes than most other animals, too.

(12) Birds are some of the most unusual sleepers in the animal world. (13) Some have to migrate thousands of miles every year, and it leaves very little time for sleep. (14) The thrush is one bird that has found a way to survive with minimal sleep. (15) This bird lands briefly for short "micro-naps," each lasting mere seconds, which is just long enough for it to re-energize for the next phase of the journey. (16) Some birds can even enter a form of sleep while flying, similar to the way underwater mammals can let half of their brain sleep while the other half is awake.

(17) Other animals require deep sleep like humans do. (18) These animals need to be picky about where and how they sleep. (19) Most sleep in a hidden location that provides protection from predators. (20) For example, a bat sleeps in the seclusion and shelter of a cave. (21) A sloth sleeps high in the trees of a rain forest. (22) Other animals, such as chipmunks, rabbits, and groundhogs, sleep in burrows that they dig in the ground.

(23) Why does sleep seem to be an essential part of life for so many kinds of animals? (24) Scientists aren't sure. (25) However, they aren't even sure that every species needs sleep. (26) What is certain, though, is that animals that do sleep have found some clever ways to do so and unique.

- 8** Derek would like to replace sentence 3 with a sentence that better states the controlling idea of his paper. Which of these would be the BEST replacement for sentence 3?
- F** As a result, that means other animals can hurt them.
  - G** As a result, many animals have to figure out a new way to fall asleep.
  - H** As a result, many animals have sleep patterns that help keep them safe.
  - J** As a result, animals don't climb in bed and pull up the covers like humans do.
- 

- 9** What is the most effective revision to make in sentence 6?
- A** One half of the animal's brain enters a sleep state, the other half of the brain stays alert.
  - B** As one half of the animal's brain enters a sleep state, the other half stays alert.
  - C** One half of the animal's brain enters a sleep state, or the other half of the animal's brain stays alert.
  - D** As one half of the animal's brain enters a sleep state, there is the other alert half of the animal's brain.
- 

- 10** Derek has included an extraneous sentence in the third paragraph (sentences 8–11). Which sentence should be deleted from this paragraph?
- F** Sentence 8
  - G** Sentence 9
  - H** Sentence 10
  - J** Sentence 11

11 The meaning of sentence 13 is unclear. What change should Derek make to improve the clarity of this sentence?

- A Change *migrate* to **journey**
  - B Change *every year* to **annually**
  - C Change *it* to **the long trip**
  - D Change *sleep* to **sleeping**
- 

12 Derek has not used the most effective transition in sentence 25. Which of the following could replace **However** in this sentence?

- F As a matter of fact
  - G For example
  - H To conclude
  - J In contrast
- 

13 What is the most effective revision to make in sentence 26?

- A What is certain, though, is that animals that do sleep have found some clever ways to do so, they are also unique.
- B What is certain, though, is that animals have found some clever ways to sleep that are unique ways, too.
- C What is certain, though, is that animals that do sleep have found some clever and unique ways to do so.
- D No revision is needed in this sentence.

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

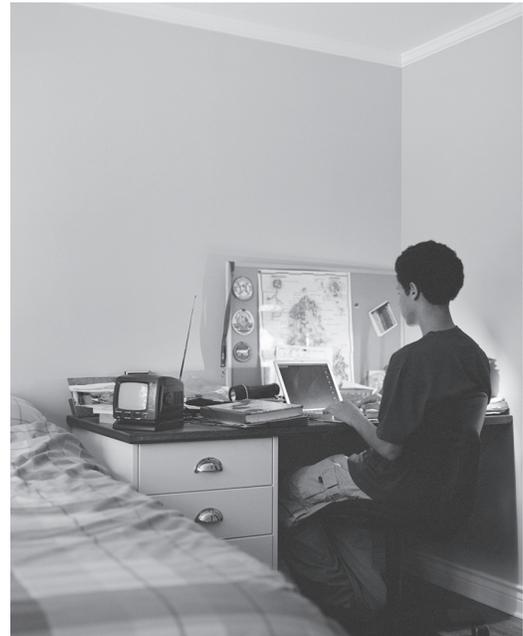
*DeShawn has written the following paper in hopes of persuading his parents to give him his own room. Read DeShawn's paper and look for any corrections he needs to make. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.*

## **A Space of My Own**

(1) I would like to begin by telling you that I think you manage our house very well. (2) I know how hard you both work to provide for our family and to take care of us kids. (3) We're happy and well-adjusted, and home is a good place to be. (4) But there's one improvement I think we need to make. (5) I truly believe that it's time for me to have my own room.

(6) I admit that I had enjoyed sharing a room with my little brother for the last six years. (7) We have the bond that I'm sure you hoped for when you bought the bunk beds and moved us in together. (8) But now that Jamal and I are both getting older, I fell that I'm ready for more privacy and a space of my own.

(9) Having my own room would give me the opportunity to become a better student. (10) My classes have become more demanding and will probably require even more concentration when I start high school in a couple of years. (11) My own room would provide a quieter place to do my homework. (12) I would also have a place to spread out materials and work on projects without getting in anyone else's way. (13) This would help me to be more focused, and as a result, my grades would improve.



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(14) My own room would also give me a place to work on my music. (15) Mr. Owens, my Band Director, insists that I practice every night. (16) Sometimes I don't have time for practice until later in the evening when Jamal is already in bed. (17) In a room of my own, I could play my trumpet without disturbing the rest of the family, and in time I would be a much better musician.

(18) Finally, I would like to have my own room so that my friends and I could have a place to hang out. (19) We like to listen to music, talk about sports, and sometimes even study together. (20) It's hard to do these things in a room filled with Jamal's toy cars, models, and action figures. (21) In fact, it's hard to do these things with Jamal in the room. (22) But it's not really fair to make him leave all the time, it's his room too. (23) Giving me a room of my own would benefit both Jamal and me.

(24) I know that we don't have a lot of extra space in our house, so I suggest that you allow me to move into the little guest room off the kitchen. (25) Because of its location, I would be able to study and play my trumpet at night without bothering Jamal. (26) When we need the room for guests, I'll happily return to the bunk bed in my old room. (27) So in the best interest of my studies, my music, and my social life. (28) I respectfully request that you let me have my own room.

14 How does sentence 6 need to be changed?

- F Change ***admit*** to **admitt**
  - G Change ***that*** to **it**
  - H Change ***had enjoyed*** to **have enjoyed**
  - J Insert a comma after **brother**
- 

15 What change should be made in sentence 8?

- A Change ***Jamal and I*** to **Jamal and me**
  - B Delete the comma
  - C Change ***fell*** to **feel**
  - D Change ***privacy*** to **privity**
- 

16 What change needs to be made in sentence 12?

- F Change ***I*** to **And**
- G Change ***spread*** to **spred**
- H Change ***anyone*** to **no one**
- J Change ***elses*** to **else's**

- 17 How does sentence 15 need to be changed?
- A Change ***Band Director*** to **band director**
  - B Delete the second comma
  - C Change ***insists*** to **insisting**
  - D Sentence 15 does not need to be changed.
- 

- 18 What change should be made in sentence 17?
- F Change the comma after ***own*** to a period
  - G Change ***disturbing*** to **disterbing**
  - H Delete ***and***
  - J Change ***musican*** to **musician**
- 

- 19 What change should be made in sentence 22?
- A Change ***fair*** to **fare**
  - B Change ***him*** to **them**
  - C Change the comma to a semicolon
  - D Change ***too*** to **to**

20 What change should be made in sentence 25?

- F Change *its* to *it's*
  - G Change the comma to a period
  - H Change *without bothering* to **without never bothering**
  - J No change should be made in sentence 25.
- 

21 What is the correct way to rewrite sentences 27 and 28?

- A So in the best interest of my studies, my music, and my social life, I respectfully request that you let me have my own room.
- B It's in the best interest of my studies, my music, and my social life, therefore, I respectfully request that you let me have my own room.
- C It's in the best interest of my studies, my music, and my social life, so I respectfully request. That you let me have my own room.
- D The sentences are written correctly in the passage.

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

*Raquel wrote the following paper about how a summer activity helped her choose a career path. Read Raquel's paper and look for any corrections she should make. Then answer the questions that follow.*

## **Junior Zookeeper**

(1) "Choose one," instructed my mother as she handed me a stack of brochures. (2) Every summer I was expected to get involved in some sort of activity. (3) I sighed, thinking how wonderful it would be to sleep late and just hang out with my friends. (4) But that was never an option in my house. (5) "You need to stay busy," mom insisted while picking up a calendar and starting to plan my summer schedule.

(6) As I shuffled through packet's of information about babysitting, first aid, and music courses, I came across something that stood out. (7) "Be a Junior Zookeeper" was printed on the front. (8) "Hmm," I thought. (9) "This might actually be interesting."

(10) The Junior Zookeepers program is a special opportunity that is offered each summer by our city's zoo. (11) It's for kids who love animals and want to learn more about what it's like behind the scenes at the zoo. (12) I signed up for the program, and by the time it was over, I had not only experienced an adventure but had also learned that there's a lot more to working at a zoo than just feeding animals.

(13) Professional zookeepers know all about animals—how they live in the wild, how they interact with one another, and how people can respect their habitats. (14) Educating kids and adults are one of the most important things these animal caregivers do. (15) As a Junior Zookeeper I was allowed to work with the kids who came to the zoo's day camp. (16) I used flash cards, games, and videos to teach the children about the animals at the zoo. (17) For special lessons I even got to bring in some of the baby animals and use them in demonstrations.

(18) Of course, all zookeepers spend time every day caring for the zoo animals. (19) Each week, I got to shadow different zoo workers, they would be taking care of their assigned animals. (20) Although the animals were different, the daily tasks of each zookeeper were surprisingly similar. (21) The day usually started with preparing food for the animals. (22) Workers carefully chopped, mixed, and weighed the food so that the animals would receive just the right types and quantities to stay healthy. (23) As the zookeepers and I made our rounds each day, we carefully observed the animals for any physical or behavioral changes. (24) I loved seeing how some of the animals recognized their keepers and came to greet him.

(25) The best week of the summer was the one I spent in the animal nursery and hospital. (26) This is where the baby animals go to grow and where hurt animals gotten a chance to rest and heal. (27) I interacted with some really special animals there. (28) I watched a baby howler monkey, drink milk from a bottle, and comforted a small snow leopard that had been injured in a fall.



(29) My summer as a Junior Zookeeper is something I'll never forget. (30) I learned so much about what goes on at a zoo. (31) I always used to shrug my shoulders when people asked me what I want to be when I grow up. (32) But now I know. (33) I'm going to be a zookeeper!

22 What change needs to be made in sentence 5?

- F Change *mom* to **Mom**
  - G Change *while* to **she was**
  - H Change *calendar* to **calender**
  - J No change needs to be made in sentence 5.
- 

23 How does sentence 6 need to be changed?

- A Change *packet's* to **packets**
  - B Change the comma after *courses* to a period
  - C Change *stood out* to **stands out**
  - D The sentence does not need to be changed.
- 

24 What change should be made in sentence 12?

- F Delete *and*
- G Change *experienced* to **expereinced**
- H Change *there's* to **theirs**
- J Change *then* to **than**

25 How should sentence 14 be changed?

- A Change ***Educating*** to **Educatting**
  - B Change ***are*** to **is**
  - C Change ***things*** to **thing's**
  - D Sentence 14 should not be changed.
- 

26 What is the correct way to write sentence 19?

- F Each week, I got to shadow different zoo workers. Who would be taking care of their assigned animals.
  - G Each week, I got to shadow different zoo workers as they took care of their assigned animals.
  - H Each week, getting to shadow different zoo workers. They would be taking care of their assigned animals.
  - J The sentence is written correctly in the paper.
- 

27 What change should be made in sentence 20?

- A Delete the comma
- B Change ***tasks*** to **task's**
- C Change ***were surprisingly*** to **was surprisingly**
- D Change ***simular*** to **similar**

**28** How does sentence 24 need to be changed?

- F** Change *seeing* to **seen**
  - G** Change *recognized* to **reconized**
  - H** Change *and* to **they**
  - J** Change *him* to **them**
- 

**29** What change should be made in sentence 26?

- A** Insert a comma after **grow**
  - B** Change *and where* to **it's also where**
  - C** Change *gotten* to **get**
  - D** Change *heal* to **heel**
- 

**30** What change needs to be made in sentence 28?

- F** Delete both commas
- G** Change *drink* to **drank**
- H** Change *that* to **it**
- J** Change *injured* to **injurred**



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