



GRADE 4
Writing

Administered April 2018

RELEASED

WRITING

WRITTEN COMPOSITION

WRITTEN COMPOSITION: Expository

READ the following quotation.

I do not know of anyone who has gotten to the top
without hard work.

—*Margaret Thatcher*

THINK about all the hard work you do. It may be work you do at school, at home, or outside.

WRITE about one type of hard work you do. Tell about your work and explain why it is so hard to do.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your central idea
- organize your writing
- develop your writing in detail
- 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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THE LINED PAGE IN THE ANSWER DOCUMENT.

REVISING AND EDITING

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

Maggie wrote this paper in response to a class assignment. Read the paper and think about any revisions Maggie should make. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.



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The Rhino's Horn

(1) The rhinoceros is a huge mammal that is native to Africa and Asia. (2) This animal can grow to more than 6 feet tall and can weigh up to 6,000 pounds. (3) Although it has very stumpy legs, it can run as fast as 35 miles an hour. (4) These characteristics are certainly impressive, but the most unusual thing about a rhino is its horn. (5) A rhino horn, which weighs up to 10 pounds, is made of keratin, the same material that human fingernails are made of. (6) Although most animal horns have only a thin layer of keratin, a rhino's horn is solid keratin. (7) Because many people believe that this material has special powers, rhino horns have become extremely valuable.

(8) People have been interested in rhinoceros horns for centuries. (9) Ancient Persians thought that these horns could detect poisons. (10) In Yemen the horns have been used to make the handle of special daggers that are given to boys when they become men. (11) All over the world people have found uses for the rhino horn. (12) As a result, the rhinoceros has become one of the world's most endangered animals.

(13) Because of the rhino's status as endangered, it's against the law to kill one. (14) But to get a rhino horn, some people ignore this law. (15) The number of rhinos has dropped drastically. (16) In fact, the rhino population has decreased by about 90 percent in the last 40 years. (17) There are now only about 30,000 remaining in the world. (18) It is uncertain whether the rhinoceros will survive as a species. (19) However, many people care about these animals and want to stop the illegal trade of rhino horns. (20) Governments are trying to write bigger laws to protect the rhinos. (21) Conservation organizations are working to make people aware of the problem. (22) Several zoos are developing breeding programs to increase the number of these animals.

1 Maggie wants to add another detail to help build the ideas in the second paragraph (sentences 8–12). Which of these could follow sentence 10 and add to the main idea of this paragraph?

- A I wonder whether there are other things people find to do with rhino horns.
 - B In parts of Asia, people believe that these horns can cure all kinds of diseases.
 - C One type of rhinoceros, the black rhino, can live up to five days without water.
 - D That’s why a lot of people are interested in rhino horns.
-

2 What is the **BEST** transition to add to the beginning of sentence 15?

- F In the beginning
- G In addition
- H As a result
- J However

3 The word **bigger** is not the right word for sentence 20. Which word should replace **bigger** in this sentence?

- A larger
 - B taller
 - C stricter
 - D easier
-

4 Maggie wants a better ending for her paper. Which sentence can be added after sentence 22 to bring this paper to a more effective close?

- F With the combined efforts of many people, it's quite possible that the amazing rhinoceros will be saved from extinction.
- G If the breeding programs work, there will be more rhinos in zoos soon.
- H Finally, the rhinoceros that so many people love will survive, and it will probably be around for years to come.
- J And that will be the end of the worries about rhinos.

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

Andrew likes to read novels and has found that some of his favorite authors are pretty interesting people. He wrote this paper about an author who never fails to make him laugh. Read Andrew's paper and look for the revisions he should make. Then answer the questions that follow.



Oliver Berg/picture-alliance/dpa/AP Images

Jeff Kinney

Jeff Kinney Creates a *Wimpy Kid*

(1) Sometimes a person has to make a slight turn in life. (2) With effort and some luck, an idea can take the person in a wonderful new direction. (3) That's what happened to Jeff Kinney. (4) He is the creator of the fiction series *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*. (5) Millions of kids have read Kinney's books and seen movies based on them.

(6) Kinney grew up in Maryland. (7) His childhood home was filled with books, and he loved to read. (8) He had a favorite book. (9) It was Judy Blume's *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*. (10) A little later he discovered science fiction. (11) He especially loved J. R. R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* series. (12) At that time, Kinney didn't imagine that he would one day create a book series himself!

(13) When asked about his childhood reading, Kinney has explained, "My favorite stories weren't in books. (14) They were in

comics.” (15) That’s because his father was a comic-book collector. (16) Kinney enjoyed reading his father’s comic books and says that his favorite characters were Donald Duck and Uncle Scrooge. (17) He thinks that their crazy adventures sparked the ideas that led him to create Greg Heffley, the now-famous Wimpy Kid.

(18) Kinney’s road didn’t lead straight to the *Wimpy Kid* series. (19) He first wanted to be a comic strip cartoonist, but he didn’t have great success. (20) All the while it was a regular kid he had been thinking of a story about. (21) For six years he jotted down ideas. (22) Finally he combined his text with some cartoon drawings and turned the ideas into a book he called *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*. (23) The book was published online, but only one little segment was released at a time. (24) Soon thousands of kids were reading a new *Wimpy Kid* episode each day. (25) In 2006, Kinney signed a deal with a book publisher. (26) By 2007, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* was a best seller!

(27) Readers ask Kinney stuff. (28) He explains that the stories, told from the point of view of the Wimpy Kid named Greg, are “ordinary.” (29) He says that’s why real-life kids like them. (30) People often think that Kinney might have once been a lot like Greg. (31) He admits that Greg does have some of his traits but says that he has exaggerated them “to make them more funny.”

(32) A great idea took Jeff Kinney from struggling cartoonist to successful novelist. (33) Today millions of kids are glad that it did!

Third party trademarks *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*®, *Lord of the Rings*®, *Donald Duck*® and *Uncle Scrooge*® were used in these testing materials.

- 5 Which of these could follow sentence 5 and effectively state the central idea of this paper?
- A Kinney’s life story is a perfect example of a turn in life leading to great things.
 - B Kinney wrote the books in the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series and some movies have been made.
 - C Kinney had an interesting childhood and an even more interesting adulthood is what I think.
 - D Kinney is a person that you should like a lot, and I am going to tell you why in this paper.
-

- 6 What is the most effective way to combine sentences 8 and 9?
- F He had a favorite book, since it was Judy Blume’s *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*.
 - G He had a favorite book and Judy Blume’s *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*.
 - H His favorite book was Judy Blume’s *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*.
 - J He had a favorite book it was Judy Blume’s *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*.

- 7** What is the most effective revision to make in sentence 20?
- A** All the while a regular kid had been thinking about a story.
 - B** All the while he had been thinking of a story about a regular kid.
 - C** All the while he had been thinking about a regular kid and a story.
 - D** All the while he had been thinking of a story it was about a regular kid.
-

- 8** Andrew would like to provide a better sentence to introduce the ideas in the fifth paragraph (sentences 27–31). Which of these could replace sentence 27 and provide a more effective topic sentence for this paragraph?
- F** Readers sometimes ask Kinney why his books are so popular.
 - G** There are readers who like to ask Kinney some stuff.
 - H** Readers want Kinney to tell them more about his choices.
 - J** The people who read the books want to know more.

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

Mario's teacher asked students to research and write about an interesting animal. Mario chose a unique type of monkey. Read Mario's rough draft and look for the corrections he needs to make. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.



Temple Monkeys

(1) Monkeys live in many places around the world. (2) One of these places is on the island of Sri Lanka. (3) This island is located near the southern tip of India and was once the site of a mighty kingdom. (4) The kingdom was known for its beautiful gardens and temples. (5) Today these ancient ruins served as a home for a type of monkey called the toque macaque (pronounced *toke ma-KAK*). (6) Because of where they live, these monkeys are often referred to as temple monkeys. (7) Many people come to the temple ruins to see the monkeys and study his habits. (8) In fact, temple monkeys have been the subject of one of the longest-running primate studies in the world, which has lasted nearly 50 years.

(9) Temple monkeys are golden brown weigh about 10 pounds, and are usually around 17 inches tall. (10) They have long tails that they use to balance and to move through the trees. (11) With their excellent color

vision. (12) They are able to find fruit and flowers in the tropical forest. (13) They have a very special way to store the food they find. (14) They stuff it into pouches in their cheeks and save it to eat later.

(15) Like many primates, temple monkeys are extremely social animals. (16) They live in family groups called troops these troops can have as many as 20 members. (17) It is fascinating to watch the monkeys interact with one another. (18) They communicate by using a variety of facial expressions and calls. (19) They sit close together and carefully groom, or clean, each other. (20) They will even offer a hug to comfort a fellow troop member. (21) At night the member's of a family gather in a warm, cozy huddle to sleep.



(22) Recently, these monkeys became even more famous when a branch of Walt Disney Studios decided to feature them in a movie. (23) Filmmakers and animal experts spent three years making the movie, which was called *monkey kingdom*. (24) Crews followed and filmed a female temple monkey as she interacted with her extended family and cared for her new baby. (25) For those of us who will never be able to travel to see these curious little creatures in person, the movie provides a glimpse into the fascinating world of Sri Lanka's temple monkeys.

Third party trademark *Walt Disney*® was used in these testing materials.

9 What change, if any, is needed in sentence 5?

- A Change **served** to **serve**
 - B Change **called** to **they are called**
 - C Change the period to a comma
 - D No change is needed in sentence 5.
-

10 What change needs to be made in sentence 7?

- F Change **come** to **coming**
 - G Change **and** to **they**
 - H Change **his** to **their**
 - J No change needs to be made in sentence 7.
-

11 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 9?

- A Insert a comma after **brown**
- B Change **weigh** to **wiegh**
- C Change **are usually around** to **were usually around**
- D No change should be made in sentence 9.

12 What is the correct way to write sentences 11 and 12?

- F** With their excellent color vision, they are able to find fruit and flowers. In the tropical forest.
 - G** With their excellent color vision, they are able to find fruit and flowers in the tropical forest.
 - H** With their excellent color vision, they are able to find fruit and flowers these are in the tropical forest.
 - J** Sentences 11 and 12 are written correctly in the paper.
-

13 What is the correct way to write sentence 16?

- A** Living in family groups called troops that can have as many as 20 members.
 - B** They live in family groups called troops. And can have as many as 20 members.
 - C** The family groups they live in are called troops and can have. As many as 20 members.
 - D** They live in family groups called troops that can have as many as 20 members.
-

14 How should sentence 21 be changed?

- F** Change *member's* to **members**
- G** Change *gather* to **gathering**
- H** Change *cozy* to **cozey**
- J** Sentence 21 should not be changed.

15 What change should be made in sentence 23?

- A** Change *spent* to *spended*
- B** Change *making* to *macking*
- C** Change *which* to *it*
- D** Change *monkey kingdom* to *Monkey Kingdom*

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

Claire is proud of her hometown. She wrote this paper to persuade others to come to the city for a visit. Read Claire's paper and look for the corrections she needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.



The Texas Capitol



Mexican Freetail Bats

Visit Austin

(1) Many families take time off from work during the summer to travel. (2) Some go to different states to see relatives. (3) Others look for places more closer to home to explore. (4) If your family is looking for a place to go this year, I think you should visit my hometown, the city of Austin.

(5) One of your first stops in Austin has to be the Texas Capitol. (6) This massive building is the largest capitol building in the country it looks pink because it is made from sunset-red granite. (7) Inside you can walk through a huge round room called the Rotunda. (8) If you look up, you will see a rounded ceiling with a Texas star right in the center. (9) It is fun to clap your hands in this room, and hear the echo that the ceiling produces.

(10) Once you leave the Texas Capitol, you should walk straight to the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum. (11) A museum that tells the story of Texas through three floors of exhibits. (12) You will see artifacts from a 300-year-old shipwreck and listen to eyewitness accounts of famous Texas battels. (13) You will also marvel at the postcard wall, a

display of hundreds of postcards sent throughout the years that helps tell the story of the state. (14) And no trip to the museum would be complete without a visit to the Texas spirit theater. (15) Here you will experience a 4-D movie journey. (16) It will take you through the history of Texas, complete with rumbling seats, howling wind, and flashing lights.

(17) One of the coolest things you can do on a summer visit to Austin is to see the Mexican freetail bats. (18) You'll want to head to the Ann W. Richards Congress Avenue Bridge in downtown Austin just before the sun sets. (19) Soon after the sun goes down, an amazing event will take place. (20) More than a million bats will come out from their home under the bridge and fill the sky. (21) This is the world's largest urban bat colony and something truly spectacular to see.

(22) Of course, these are just a few of the attractions you will find in Austin. (23) There are also beautiful gardens, scenic hilltops, and fun parks. (24) You also don't need to worry about getting hot during a summer visit to Austin. (25) The city is also known for its lakes, rivers, and natural swimming pools. (26) With so much to do in Austin, you should certainly put it at the top of your list as a place to visit this summer.

16 How should sentence 1 be changed?

- F** Change *family*s to **families**
 - G** Change *off* to **of**
 - H** Change *to travel* to **they travel**
 - J** Sentence 1 should not be changed.
-

17 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 3?

- A** Change *look* to **looking**
 - B** Delete *more*
 - C** Change *closer* to **closser**
 - D** No change should be made in this sentence.
-

18 What is the correct way to write sentence 6?

- F** This massive building is the largest capitol building in the country. And looks pink because it is made from sunset-red granite.
- G** This massive building is the largest capitol building in the country and looks pink that is because it is made from sunset-red granite.
- H** This massive building is the largest capitol building in the country, and it looks pink. Because it is made from sunset-red granite.
- J** This massive building is the largest capitol building in the country. It looks pink because it is made from sunset-red granite.

19 What change needs to be made in sentence 9?

- A Change ***It*** to **And**
 - B Change ***your*** to **you're**
 - C Delete the comma
 - D Change ***produces*** to **produses**
-

20 What is the correct way to write sentence 11?

- F This museum tells the story of Texas. Through three floors of exhibits.
 - G A museum that tells the story of Texas. Through three floors of exhibits.
 - H This museum tells the story of Texas through three floors of exhibits.
 - J The sentence is written correctly in the paper.
-

21 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 12?

- A Change ***and listen*** to **you will listen**
- B Change ***to eyewitness accounts*** to **too eyewitness accounts**
- C Change ***battels*** to **battles**
- D No change should be made in sentence 12.

22 How should sentence 14 be changed?

- F Change ***no trip*** to **know trip**
 - G Change ***complete*** to **completely**
 - H Change ***without a visit*** to **without no visit**
 - J Change ***Texas spirit theater*** to **Texas Spirit Theater**
-

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

- A Change ***then*** to **than**
 - B Change ***will come*** to **have come**
 - C Insert a comma after ***bridge***
 - D No change needs to be made in this sentence.
-

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

- F Change ***it's*** to **its**
- G Delete the comma after ***lakes***
- H Change ***swimming*** to **swiming**
- J No change should be made in sentence 25.



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