

## AMI WRITING PROMPTS FOR 2019-2020

### WRITING PROMPT #1

At a recent conference at the University of Chicago, David Walsh of the National Institute on Media and the Family presented a paper titled “Video Game Violence and Public Policy.”

The paper stated that “79% of American children now play computer or video games on a regular basis. Children between the ages of seven and 17 play for an average of eight hours a week.”

“The growth of electronic games has not been without controversy, however. The subset of games that feature violence, gore, and antisocial behavior has raised concern among parents, educators, child advocates, medical professionals, and policy makers.”

According to Walsh, research shows reason for concern:

“Exposure to violent games increases physiological\* arousal. . . Heart rate . . . and . . . blood pressure all increase when playing violent games. . . These are the same types of physiological reactions bodies have when engaged in a fight.”

“Exposure to violent games increases aggressive emotions.” In one study, “students who were more ‘addicted’ to video games were significantly more likely to be in a bad mood before, during, and after play than were non-addicted students.”

“In a study of 8th and 9th graders, students who played more violent video games were also more likely to see the world as a hostile place, to get into frequent arguments with teachers, and to be involved in physical fights.”

**\*physiological: relating to the body’s normal functions and processes.**

Using the information presented in the paper, experiences from your own life, and/or other information you have read, write an article for your school newspaper about the negative effects of playing violent video games.

As you write your article, remember to

- Focus on the negative effects of children playing violent video games. •Consider the purpose, audience and context of your article.
- Organize your ideas and details effectively.
- Include specific details that clearly develop your article.
- Use standard grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

Write at least two pages.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Unit 6****ACT PRACTICE TEST****English, Reading, and Writing****Practice Test Answer Sheet**

Fill in the circle completely for the answer choice you think is best.

**English**

1. (A) (B) (C) (D)
2. (F) (G) (H) (J)
3. (A) (B) (C) (D)
4. (F) (G) (H) (J)

5. (A) (B) (C) (D)

6. (F) (G) (H) (J)

**Reading**

1. (A) (B) (C) (D)

2. (F) (G) (H) (J)

3. (A) (B) (C) (D)

4. (F) (G) (H) (J)

5. (A) (B) (C) (D)

6. (F) (G) (H) (J)

**English (6 Minutes—6 Questions)**

**DIRECTIONS:** The following passage is divided into numbered sections. In each section, specific words and phrases are underlined. To the right of each section are several alternatives for the underlined text. In each case, choose the alternative that best expresses the idea that makes the text correct according to the conventions of standard written English, or that best fits the style and tone of the complete passage. If the original underlined text is better than any of the alternatives, choose "NO CHANGE."

For each question, choose the best alternative and fill in the corresponding circle on the Answer Sheet. Read through the entire passage once before you begin answering the questions. Also be sure to read each numbered section in full before answering the corresponding question. Consider each underlined word or phrase within the context of the complete section.

**Sandra Cisneros**

[1]

Sandra Cisneros was born in Chicago, in 1954, and was the only daughter in a family of seven children. Predictably domineering, her brothers<sup>1</sup> and young Sandra often found it difficult being

1. A. NO CHANGE
- B. Predictably domineering were her brothers
- C. Her brothers were predictably domineering,
- D. Predictably, her brothers domineered

a little girl. She would later state that she had<sup>2</sup>  
sometimes felt as though she had grown up with  
“seven fathers.”

[2]

Cisneros has spent<sup>3</sup> much of her childhood going  
between Chicago and Mexico, where her family  
visited relatives. They settled briefly in numerous  
ghettos and impoverished neighborhoods. Young  
Sandra felt rootless and longed to express herself.<sup>4</sup>  
Having no sisters or friends in whom to confide,  
Sandra sought refuge in books. These books,  
paired with her observations of poverty,  
helped forge the basis and foundation for<sup>5</sup>

Cisneros adult writing.<sup>6</sup>

2. F. NO CHANGE  
G. she has sometimes felt as though she grew  
H. she sometimes felt as though she were growing  
J. Sandra had sometimes felt as though Sandra had grown
3. A. NO CHANGE  
B. has likely spent  
C. has not spent  
D. spent
4. F. NO CHANGE  
G. of the ghettos and impoverished neighborhoods  
H. impoverished neighborhoods  
J. ghettos and in numerous impoverished neighborhoods
5. A. NO CHANGE  
B. basis  
C. basis and the foundation  
D. basis of the foundation
6. F. NO CHANGE  
G. Cisneroses' adult writing  
H. Cisneros's adult writing  
J. Cisneroses adult writing

### Reading (6 Minutes—6 Questions)

**DIRECTIONS:** The passage in this section is followed by several questions. Read the passage and then choose the best answer to each question. Fill in the corresponding circle on the Answer Sheet. Refer to the passage as much as needed while answering the questions.

...A narrow bright red carpet was unrolled and stretched from the top of the marble steps to the curbstone, along the center of the black carpet. This red path cost the *portier*  
5 more trouble than even the black one had done. But he patiently fixed and refixed it until it was exactly right and lay precisely in the middle of the black carpet...

Now came a waiting interval. The  
10 landlord, in plain clothes, and bareheaded,

placed himself on the bottom marble step, abreast the *portier*, who stood on the other end of the same steps; six or eight waiters, gloved, bareheaded, and wearing their  
15 whitest linen, their whitest cravats, and their finest swallow-tails, grouped themselves about these chiefs, but leaving the carpetway clear. Nobody moved or spoke any more but only waited.

20 In a short time the shrill piping of a  
coming train was heard, and immediately  
groups of people began to gather in the street.  
Two or three open carriages arrived, and  
deposited some maids of honor and some  
25 male officials at the hotel. Presently another  
open carriage brought the Grand Duke of  
Baden, a stately man in uniform, who wore  
the handsome brass-mounted, steel-spiked  
helmet of the army on his head. Last came the  
30 Empress of Germany and the Grand Duchess  
of Baden in a closed carriage; these passed  
through the low-bowing groups of servants  
and disappeared in the hotel, exhibiting to  
us only the backs of their heads, and then the  
35 show was over.

It appears to be as difficult to land a  
monarch as it is to launch a ship.

1. What might the word *shrill* mean in the following sentence: "In a short time the shrill piping of a coming train was heard, and immediately groups of people began to gather in the street."  
A. high-pitched  
B. dull  
C. humming  
D. garrulous
2. Which of the following best describes the mood, or atmosphere, of the excerpt?  
F. energetic and humorous  
G. pointed and somber  
H. irreverent yet injurious  
J. hurried and severe

3. Which statement best suggests the author's purpose in this passage?  
A. The narrator intends to provide information to the reader.  
B. The narrator is attempting to influence the reader's judgment of Baden.  
C. The narrator is using descriptive language to illustrate the scene.  
D. The narrator wants to depict the order in which the royal entourage arrives.
4. In the first two paragraphs, the behavior of the hotel staff indicates that  
F. they are expecting to be censured.  
G. they are preparing to greet and impress a guest of great significance.  
H. the landlord will be joining the Empress for dinner.  
J. the *portier* considers Baden's royalty a threat to the hotel's security.
5. Given the passage, what is a *portier*?  
A. a hotel owner  
B. a doorkeeper  
C. a coach driver  
D. a government official
6. What does Twain mean when he compares greeting a monarch to launching a ship?  
F. At this time, ship launches were private events organized by the government.  
G. Launching a ship was not difficult.  
H. Ship launchings were events of great fanfare and preparation.  
J. Twain implies that royalty are rude.

## Writing (30 Minutes)

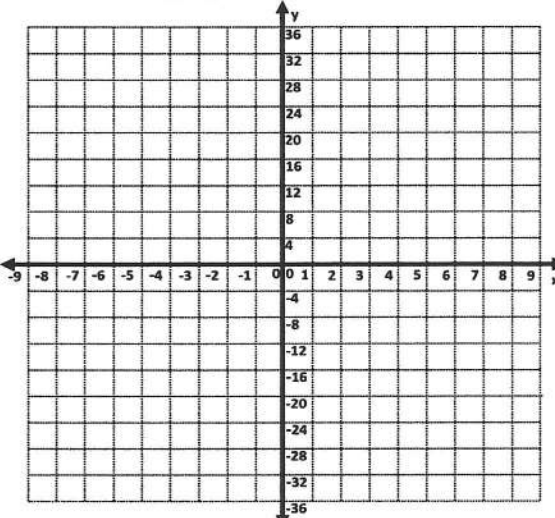
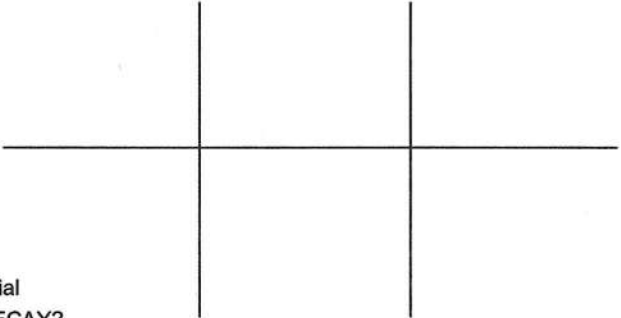
**DIRECTIONS:** Think carefully about the issue presented in the following excerpt and assignment below. You have 30 minutes to write your response to the prompt.

A city has initiated a recycling plan that provides blue bins to all residences at no direct cost to citizens. Waste management workers empty the bins along with regular trash. These bins help to alleviate the amount of recyclable materials buried in landfills and eliminate the need of individual citizens to haul recyclables to a recycling center. Many people favor the blue bin

plan to other forms of recycling as a simple way to "go green." Others believe a citywide recycling program is too expensive to operate and that the benefits are outweighed by the costs. In general, do you believe a citywide recycling program is a sound investment for a community and for future generations?

In your essay, take a position on this question. You may write about either of the two viewpoints given, or you may provide a different viewpoint on this question. Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

<b>Parallel Perpendicular Lines</b>	Write an equation of the line that passes through the given point and is <u>parallel</u> to the given line. (Use POINT SLOPE)
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <math>(-10,0)</math>, <math>-y + 3x = 16</math> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <math>(3,-3)</math>, <math>y = x + 5</math> </div> </div>  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <math>(-10,0)</math>, <math>-y + 3x = 16</math> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <math>(3,-3)</math>, <math>y = x + 5</math> </div> </div>

<b>Exponential Functions</b>		<p>Evaluate the exponential function. Solve the equation for y. Make a table, plot the points, graph the function. <math>y = 4 \cdot 3^x</math> Use <math>\{-2, -1, 0, 1, 2\}</math> for the domain.</p> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; margin-right: 20px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 30px;">x</th> <th style="width: 30px;">y</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </tbody> </table> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  </div> <p>Is this exponential GROWTH or DECAY?</p> <p>x-intercept _____ y-intercept _____ asymptote _____</p>	x	y												
	x	y														

<b>Inequalities</b>	<p>Solve the inequality. Then graph its solution.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <math>-5x + 5 &gt; 25</math> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <math>\longleftrightarrow</math> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <math>13b - 6 \leq 14b + 8</math> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <math>\longleftrightarrow</math> </div> </div>
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<b>Word Problems</b>	<p>Given the function <math>f(x) = -3x^2 + 8</math></p> <p>Find <math>f(5)</math></p>	<b>Show your work!</b>	<b>Arithmetic Sequence</b>	<p>Write a rule for the <math>n^{\text{th}}</math> term, where <math>a_1</math> is the first term and <math>d</math> = common difference. Then find <math>a_n</math> when <math>n = 6</math> <math>7, 3, -1, -5, \dots n^{\text{th}}</math></p> <p><math>a_n = a_1 + (n-1)d</math></p>
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<b>Exponent Rules</b>	<p>Simplify the following expressions:</p> $(8j^2k^9n^{-3})^{-2}$	$(3xy^5z^8)^2$
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Parallel  
Perpendicular Lines

Write an equation of the line that passes through the given point and is parallel to the given line. (Use Slope Intercept)

$(-9, 2), y = 3x - 12$

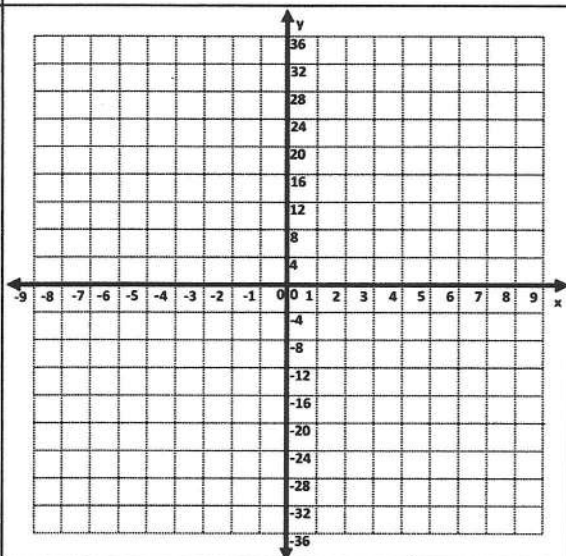
$(5, 1), y = 5x - 2$

Write an equation of the line that passes through the given point and is perpendicular to the given line.

$(-9, 2), y = 3x - 12$

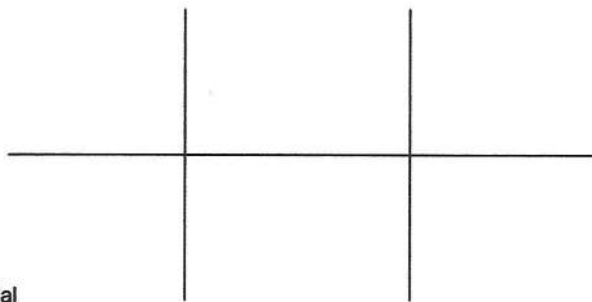
$(5, 1), y = 5x - 2$

Exponential Functions



Evaluate the exponential function. Solve the equation for y. Make a table, plot the points, graph the function.  $y = 2 \cdot (1/4)^x$  Use  $\{-2, -1, 0, 1, 2\}$  for the domain.

x	y



Is this exponential GROWTH or DECAY?

x-intercept \_\_\_\_\_ y-intercept \_\_\_\_\_ asymptote \_\_\_\_\_

Inequalities

Solve the inequality. Then graph its solution.

$4 - 3x \geq x + 3$



$9 + \frac{1}{2}x \leq 11$



Word Problems

The length and width of a rectangle are represented by  $4x-1$  and  $x+3$ , respectively.

What is the area of the rectangle?

Show your work!

Arithmetic Sequence

Write a rule for the  $n^{\text{th}}$  term, where  $a_1$  is the first term and  $d$  = common difference. Then find  $a_n$  when  $n = 9$      $6, 4, 2, 0, -2 \dots n^{\text{th}}$   
 $a_n = a_1 + (n-1)d$

Exponent Rules

Simplify the following expressions.

$\frac{(f^3g^5)^2}{(g^6f^4)^3}$

# Alternative Methods of Instruction

## Day 1 Assignment

### Science Grades 11-12

Name:

#### Directions:

After reading the passage, choose the best answer to each question. You may refer to the passage as often as necessary.

#### Passage 1

Researchers studied how diet and the ability to smell food can affect the life span of normal fruit flies (Strain N) and fruit flies unable to detect many odors (Strain X).

##### Study 1

Three tubes (Tubes 1–3), each with 15% sugar yeast (SY) medium (a diet with 15% sugar and 15% killed yeast), were prepared. Then, 200 virgin female Strain N fruit flies less than 24 hr old were added to each tube. No additional substance was added to Tube 1. Additional odors from live yeast were added to Tube 2, and live yeast was added to Tube 3. The percent of fruit flies alive was determined every 5 days for 75 days (see Figure 1).

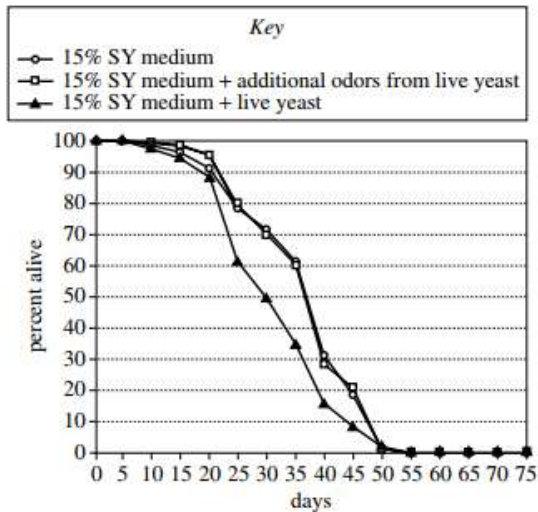


Figure 1

##### Study 2

Three tubes (Tubes 4–6), each with 5% SY medium (a diet with 5% sugar and 5% killed yeast), were prepared. Then, 200 virgin female Strain N fruit flies less than 24 hr old were added to each tube. No additional substance was added to Tube 4. Additional odors from live yeast were added to Tube 5, and live yeast was added to Tube 6. The percent of fruit flies alive was determined every 5 days for 75 days (see Figure 2).

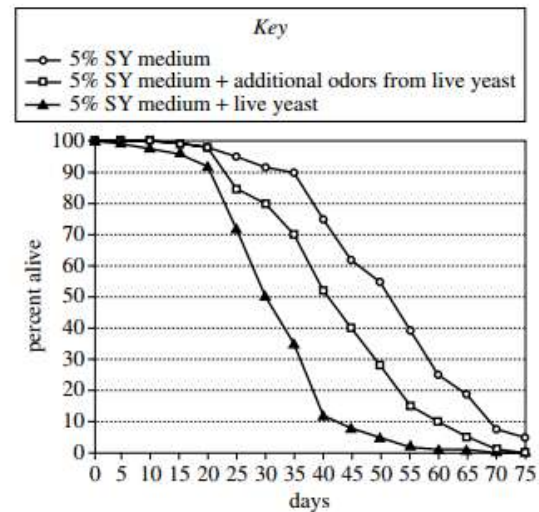


Figure 2

### Study 3

Strain N fruit flies were modified to produce Strain X fruit flies. Strain X fruit flies lack *Or83b* (a protein required to detect a wide range of odors); therefore, they cannot detect many odors. The average life span was determined for virgin female Strain N and virgin female Strain X fruit flies fed with various SY media (see Table 1).

Strain	SY medium		Average life span (days)
	% sugar	% killed yeast	
Strain N	3	3	50.1
	5	5	50.1
	7.5	7.5	43.9
	10	10	44.8
	15	15	41.6
Strain X	3	3	61.6
	5	5	62.5
	7.5	7.5	58.9
	10	10	58.6
	15	15	55.6

Table and figures adapted from Sergiy Libert et al., "Regulation of *Drosophila* Life Span by Olfaction and Food-Derived Odors." ©2007 by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

- In which of Studies 1 and 2 did some of the fruit flies live for more than 75 days, and what diet were those fruit flies fed?
  - Study 1; 5% SY medium
  - Study 1; 15% SY medium
  - Study 2; 5% SY medium
  - Study 2; 15% SY medium
- During Studies 1 and 2, why did the size of the fruit fly population in each tube decrease rather than increase?
  - The birthrate was 0, because the initial population contained only males.
  - The birthrate was 0, because the initial population contained only virgin females.
  - The death rate was 0, because the initial population contained only males.
  - The death rate was 0, because the initial population contained only virgin females.
- Study 1 differed from Study 2 in which of the following ways?
  - Female fruit flies were tested in Study 1, whereas male fruit flies were tested in Study 2.
  - Male fruit flies were tested in Study 1, whereas female fruit flies were tested in Study 2.
  - The SY medium tested in Study 1 contained a lower percent of sugar than did the SY medium tested in Study 2.
  - The SY medium tested in Study 1 contained a higher percent of sugar than did the SY medium tested in Study 2.
- Suppose that an additional trial in Study 3 had been performed using a 12% SY medium (a diet with 12% sugar and 12% killed yeast). The average life span of the Strain X fruit flies in this trial would most likely have been:
  - less than 55.6 days.
  - between 55.6 days and 58.6 days.
  - between 58.6 days and 61.6 days.
  - greater than 61.6 days.
- The researchers had predicted that decreasing a fruit fly's ability to detect odors would increase its life span. Are the results of Study 3 consistent with this prediction?
  - No; for each SY medium tested, the average life span of Strain X fruit flies was longer than the average life span of Strain N fruit flies.
  - No; for each SY medium tested, the average life span of Strain N fruit flies was longer than the average life span of Strain X fruit flies.
  - Yes; for each SY medium tested, the average life span of Strain X fruit flies was longer than the average life span of Strain N fruit flies.
  - Yes; for each SY medium tested, the average life span of Strain N fruit flies was longer than the average life span of Strain X fruit flies.
- Suppose the researchers wanted to determine whether a defect in the ability to detect odors would change the life span of fruit flies fed 15% SY medium when live yeast is added to the diet or when additional odors from live yeast are added to the diet. Which of the following experiments should be performed?
  - Repeat Study 1 except with Strain X fruit flies
  - Repeat Study 1 except with Strain N fruit flies
  - Repeat Study 2 except with Strain X fruit flies
  - Repeat Study 2 except with Strain N fruit flies
- The results for which 2 tubes should be compared to determine how a reduced calorie diet affects life span in the absence of live yeast and additional odors from live yeast?
  - Tube 1 and Tube 4
  - Tube 1 and Tube 2
  - Tube 2 and Tube 5
  - Tube 5 and Tube 6