

6th Grade CST Writing Strategies Review

Read the directions and answer the following questions

Miguel's teacher has asked the students to conduct research about what it was like to live in another time and to write about what they learn. Miguel wants to write about boys who became knights in the Middle Ages.

1. To complete this assignment, Miguel will write a (63)

- A book review.
- B narrative poem.
- C factual report.
- D persuasive essay.

Miguel used this CD-ROM encyclopedia to help him research his topic.

Life through the Ages History Encyclopedia

ENCYCLOPEDIA DISC 2:

EUROPE

Prehistory □ to 3000 B.C.

Ancient Times □ to 476 A.D.

Middle Ages □ to 1400

Renaissance □ to 1600

Industrial Age □ to 1760

Modern Times □ to the present

Click on the diamond that corresponds to the time period you wish to explore.

2. To find information about his topic, Miguel should use the mouse to click on the diamond next to (64)

- A. 476 A.D.
- B 1400.
- C 1600.
- D 1760.

Here is Miguel's first draft, which may contain errors.

From Boyhood to Knighthood

1 In tales of medieval days, we are told that brave knights wore shining armor and rode beautiful horses. They carried bright, sharp weapons. In these stories, fair maidens in distress are rescued by these knights, who seem to appear mysteriously out of the mist. The truth is that the knights of the Middle Ages did not just appear from thin air.

2 In times of war, a young man who fought bravely on a battlefield could become a knight on the site where he had demonstrated his courage. A king or knight could tap him on the shoulder with a sword, giving him this title of honor.

3 In peacetime, becoming a knight was a more lengthy process. A boy began this training when he was about seven years old. He went to live in the home of a noble family, where he served as a page. He ran errands for the family, served their meals, and learned to ride horses and handle small weapons. He also learned a code of polite behavior that was as important as learning to fight.

4 When a page was about fourteen years old, he became a squire. A squire served a knight who was called his lord. He took care of his lord's horse and helped him practice hunting and fighting skills. If battle broke out, a squire rode beside his lord to the end.

5 Most squires were knighted by the time they were twenty-one years old. If not knighted on a battlefield, the squire might be knighted in an elaborate ceremony called dubbing. He bathed, cut his hair short, and prayed all night in a chapel. In the morning, he knelt before his lord who tapped him on both shoulders with a sword. He then gave him the spurs and sword of a knight.

6 Either in battle or in a dubbing ceremony, the squire rose from his knees as a knight. He promised to use his bravery and fighting skills to defend the weak and protect his homeland.

3. Which sentence could Miguel *best* add at the end of the first paragraph of his report? (65)

- A Knights used strong horses to help them fight battles.
- B There probably were knights in other historical periods, too.
- C A man was not simply born a knight; he had to earn such a title.
- D Women could not become knights unless they pretended to be men.

4. If Miguel wants to write to his cousin in Mexico about what he is learning, he should write a (66)

- A letter to the editor.
- B personal letter.
- C letter of request.
- D business letter.

The following is a rough draft of a student's essay. It contains errors.

Origami

(1) Can you create a whole world out of pieces of paper? (2) You can if you know origami. (3) Origami is the Japanese art of creating shapes and figures by folding pieces of paper. (4) Without scissors or glue, origami artists can make paper animals, flowers, or objects like boats or windmills. (5) The word *origami* comes from the Japanese words *oru*, meaning "to fold," and *kami*, meaning "paper." (6) Some people think it might have been introduced to Japan in the early seventh century by the Chinese, after they began to make paper.

(7) Most origami sculptures are made from a few basic shapes, like the bird, fish, kite, and frog. (8) Diagrams that show how to make origami pieces are easily available, not only in books, but also from online sources. (9) They show how to create origami through a series of descriptively named folds: for example, the valley fold, the mountain fold, the petal fold, or the pleat. (10) In addition, events like the Pacific Coast Origami conference offer exhibitions and workshops for beginners as well as for advanced origami artists.

(11) Origami is a beautiful art that anyone can try. (12) It can be difficult at first but if you stay patient and follow instructions carefully, you can be an origami artist too!

Read this sentence. Origami is the Japanese art of creating shapes and figures by folding pieces of paper.

5. This sentence offers support by (71)

- A defining the subject.
- B comparing the subject to something else.
- C beginning a story about the subject.
- D including an example that illustrates the subject.

6. Which of the following Internet keywords would *best* help someone find more information about other basic folds used in origami? (75)

- A origami history
- B origami animals
- C simple origami
- D origami paper

The following is a rough draft of a student’s report. It contains errors.

Are We There Yet?

1 Think about a time you went someplace that you had never been before. It was not really far away, but it seemed as if it was taking a really long time to get there. Then you noticed that the return trip did not seem to take nearly as long, even though it was exactly the same distance. Scientists have studied these common observations. They have concluded that our perception of how time passes is sometimes based on the amount of information with which we are dealing. The more information we are getting, the more slowly time seems to pass.

2 On the way to the strange place, we are confronted with unfamiliar sights and sounds, and maybe even smells. We may be reading directions, looking for landmarks, or trying to find a particular road sign. There may be others in the car asking, “When will we get there? Are we there yet?” We are constantly processing and evaluating the information we are receiving.

3 On the return trip, we are somewhat familiar with the route. Now much of the information is not new to us. Our brain now processes the information more efficiently. We are able to ignore a lot of what we see and hear. We remember that it does not require action on our part.

4 In other words, scientists believe that on the way to a new place we see things in great detail. Thus time seems to move slowly. On the return trip we are not paying as much attention to detail. Time seems to pass more quickly.

5 The process could be compared to the first and second days of school. On the first day everything is new and different, and time seems to pass slowly. On the second day, you know what to expect, and your brain spends less time processing new information. The second day of school usually seems to proceed at a more rapid pace.

7. Which sentence is *best* added to the end of paragraph 3? (76)

- A The driver experiences the same things as the passengers.
- B We know what to pay attention to and we screen out the rest.
- C I wonder what happens when we do know the route.
- D New places do that to all of us.

Read the last two sentences of paragraph 5. On the second day, you know what to expect, and your brain spends less time processing new information. The second day of school usually seems to proceed at a more rapid pace.

8. Which word should be added to the beginning of the second sentence? (78)

- A However,
- B Therefore,
- C Although,
- D Nevertheless,

9. Which sentence *best* serves as a summary to be added at the end of the report? (79)

- A This is a good illustration of the concept.
- B The same phenomenon also occurs in the field of athletics.
- C The first and second days of school are stressful times.
- D Thus, in a sense, time speeds up when our surroundings become more familiar.

Serena's teacher has asked the students to conduct research about ocean creatures and write about what they learn. Serena wants to write about giant squids.

10. To complete this assignment, Serena will write a (80)

- A personal letter.
- B factual report.
- C short story.
- D book review.

11. If Serena wants to obtain information from her state’s marine institute, she should write a (81)

- A** letter to the editor.
- B** letter of complaint.
- C** letter of request.
- D** personal letter.

The following is a rough draft of a student’s essay. It contains errors.

The Leaning Tower

(1) Those who built the Tower of Pisa never meant for it to lean, though this is what has made it famous. (2) Other towers, such as the Eiffel Tower and the Tower of London, are known for their own unique qualities. (3) In recent years, workers have had to make the Tower of Pisa lean less, to make it safe for visitors to enter. (4) How did the tower come to lean, and how did workers make the Leaning Tower stand straighter?

(5) The tower was constructed about eight hundred years ago in the town of Pisa, near the Coast in Northwestern Italy. (6) The tilting came about because of the land on which the tower was built. (7) This land being an old riverbed. (8) It wasn’t good. (9) This caused the tower to lean to one side more and more over the centuries. (10) By 1990, it was leaning so much that it had to be closed to visitors. (

11) Then workers began to try to straighten out the tower enough to make it safe. (12) A lot of soil was taken out from under one side. (13) When the land was settled, the tower was leaning seventeen inches less than before. (14) Though this doesn’t sound like very much, the tower is considered safe again—for now.

12. Which sentence would be *best* to remove from the first paragraph? (87)

- A** Those who built the Tower of Pisa never meant for it to lean, though this is what has made it famous.
- B** Other towers, such as the Eiffel Tower and the Tower of London, are known for their own unique qualities.
- C** In recent years, workers have had to make the Tower of Pisa lean less, to make it safe for visitors to enter.
- D** How did the tower come to lean, and how did workers make the Leaning Tower stand straighter?

13. How should sentence 8 *best* be rewritten to give the reader more information? (90)

- A It was a poor location because the soil was sandy and soft.
- B It was the wrong place to build.
- C It was not a good place to choose because it was a poor choice.
- D It was an unfortunate decision.

14. The *best* way to provide a better transition between the second and third paragraphs would be to replace the word *Then* with which of these transitions? (91)

- A All things being equal,
- B After it was closed,
- C To make it do that,
- D As they thought about it

15. Which of the following revisions would make sentence 12 more informative? (92)

- A There was very much soil taken out from beneath one side of the tower.
- B From under one side of the tower the workers took out an enormous quantity of soil.
- C The workers performed much labor to remove soil from its place under the tower.
- D About eight tons of soil were removed from the non-leaning side of the tower.

16. Which of these sentences would be *best* to add as the last sentence of the third paragraph? (94)

- A The Tower of Pisa probably wouldn't have been famous if it didn't lean.
- B In another three hundred years, however, the process might have to be repeated.
- C Seventeen inches is a small but important difference in tilt for this tower.
- D If they had built the tower somewhere else, it might have stood straight.

17. Which organizational pattern was used to arrange the details in the second and third paragraphs? (95)

- A spatial sequence
- B comparison and contrast
- C order of importance
- D time sequence

The following is a rough draft of a student's report. It contains errors.

How Honeybees Communicate

(1) Honeybees are capable of a highly developed form of communication. (2) To begin to understand how honeybees communicate, it is important to first learn about their social organization. (3) The social organization in a colony of honeybees is based on a rigid division of labor. (4) Each bee in the hive has a specific role to fill.

(5) Honeybees live in large and amazingly well-organized colonies that consist of queens, drones, and workers. (6) The queen's job is to lay eggs, as many as 2,000 in a single day! (7) Each drone has a very important job: to mate with the queen. (8) Drones, surprisingly, do not mate with the queen in their own hive. (9) They travel, instead, to other hives, which may be miles away, to mate with the queens of those hives. (10) Worker bees neither lay eggs nor mate but they do perform a variety of other essential jobs. (11) These jobs include cleaning the hive, caring for developing bees, producing and building honeycombs, and locating and gathering food. (12) When a worker bee reaches the age of three weeks; therefore, it begins one of its primary functions—hunting for food. (13) Worker bees and drones support the hive.

(14) A remarkable system of communication among the bees enables them to be successful in gathering food. (15) In the hive, the bees communicate through touch, sound, and chemical messages. (16) The process of chemical communication involves pheromones, odors produced by an animal that influence how other animals act. (17) As they gather pollen, however, honeybees use a very different form of communication: a symbolic dance language. (18) After locating a supply of food, honeybee "scouts" return to the hive and dance on the surface of the honeycomb. (19) By dancing in a particular pattern and at varying speeds, the scouts communicate vital information about their find. (20) The scouts indicate the direction that the honeybees must go to find the food. (21) They even relay information about the distance.

(22) Although the world of the honeybee is filled with behaviors that humans find unique and interesting, none of these behaviors are as fascinating as the dance of the honeybees. (23) For entomologists, the scientists who study insects, the honeybees' ability to communicate through dance provides a stimulating field of research.

18. Which sentence could *best* be added to the last paragraph to help summarize the report? (100)

- A The discoveries of scientists help all people.
- B The wasp also uses many forms of communication.
- C The honeybee is a special insect because it produces honey and wax.
- D Like human language, the dance of the honeybees is a complicated form of communication.

19. Which keyword entry would *best* help the student locate more information about how honeybees exchange information? (101)

- A organization + sting + scientist
- B bees + honey + organization
- C bees + communication + pheromones
- D scientist + insect + communication

The following is a rough draft of a student's report. It contains errors.

Puppets

(1) Have you ever used your hands to make playful shadows on a wall? (2) If you have, then you have participated in the fun and popular art of puppetry. (3) Shadow puppets, string puppets, rod puppets, hand puppets, and ventriloquist figures are among the most common types of puppets.

(4) Shadow puppetry is believed to have begun when prehistoric people used their hands to cast shadows on cave walls. (5) Although this theory has not been proven, most people agree that puppetry began before written language. (6) More than 2000 years ago, the greek philosopher Plato referred to shadow puppets in his philosophical writings. (7) Puppetry has servived through the ages, portraying legends, myths, and famous events. (8) In these portrayals, it is common to see puppets that look like historical figures, including Shakespeare, Edgar Allan Poe, and Benjamin Franklin. (9) Today, puppets star in movies and television programs, appear on commercials, and even help educate students in the classroom.

(10) It has been said about puppets that, if you move them, then they move you. (11) As we watch a puppet move and speak, we don't see it as merely wood, cloth, or plastic; we see a hero, a villain, or a comic. (12) Because puppeteers are able to convey complex emotions with ordinary materials and simple gestures, the art of puppetry can be enjoyed by anyone with a lively imagination.

20. Which sentence could *best* be added to the beginning of the second paragraph? (103)

- A Obviously, some kinds are more complicated to make and operate than others.
- B Local schools and libraries are good places to find a string puppet show being presented.
- C Puppets continue to entertain people of all ages, and we all remember Pinocchio fondly.
- D It might surprise you to know that puppetry is a very old art form.

21. Which term *best* describes the passage? (105)

- A an editorial
- B a humorous story
- C a descriptive report
- D an entertainment review

This is a rough draft of a student's essay. It contains errors.

Selling Hot Dogs Is Big Business

1 One of the most well-liked foods in the United States is the hot dog. The selling of hot dogs, in fact, has become a profitable business. In the year 2001, for instance, Americans consumed more than 20 billion hot dogs. On the Fourth of July alone, Americans bought 150 million hot dogs. Baseball fans eat a tremendous number of hot dogs each year during baseball season. If all 26.3 million hot dogs sold in major league baseball stadiums each year were placed end to end, the hot dogs would stretch from Dodger Stadium, in Los Angeles, all the way across the country to the PNC Park, in Pittsburgh.

2 The sales of hot dogs have increased, in part, due to some changes in the product. New ingredients, in particular, have widened the appeal of the hot dog to various groups. Vegetarians and health-conscious Americans can now choose meatless and low-fat varieties of hot dogs. Chicken, turkey, and soy hot dogs are also available for purchase. These variations of the old standard hot dog have led to a larger consumer base and a rise in sales.

3 The popularity of the hot dog is also a result of the numerous ways the food is prepared in different regions of the United States. The way Americans prepare their hot dogs depends on where they live. Hot dog lovers in Chicago, _____, often use yellow mustard, dark green relish, chopped raw onion, tomato slices, celery salt, and poppy seed buns with their hot dogs. In the south, however, people put coleslaw on their hot dogs, hence the name *slaw dogs*. People from New York like their hot dogs with a lot of onions. Kansas City residents enjoy their hot dogs with sauerkraut and melted Swiss cheese on a sesame seed bun.

4 Sales of hot dogs have risen significantly over the past decade. In 2001, grocery store hot dog sales reached 1.7 billion dollars, the cost of buying 808 million pounds of hot dogs. The National hot dog and sausage Council estimates that 4.9 million pounds of hot dogs were sold to the food service industry in the year 2000.

5 No matter how people order, fix, or eat their hot dogs, this convenient meal remains a staple in the American diet. Because of the high demand, grocery stores, restaurants, and food stands across the United States continue to buy a huge number of hot dogs from suppliers so they can provide patrons with one of their favorite foods: the all-American hot dog.

Which sentence could *best* be added to paragraph 1 as a supporting detail? (107)

22. Which sentence could *best* be added to paragraph 1 as a supporting detail? (107)

- A Almost half of all hot dogs are sold between Memorial Day and Labor Day.
- B Boiling and grilling are popular ways to prepare hot dogs.
- C The Fourth of July is celebrated with fireworks.
- D Hot dogs are quite popular in both New York and Chicago.

23. Which sentence provides additional details to the information in paragraph 2? (108)

- A A long-standing debate exists about whether hamburgers taste better than hot dogs.
- B Few fans of hot dogs would actually eat them for breakfast.
- C The average consumer has only a general idea about the basic ingredients of hot dogs.
- D Other varieties include tofu dogs, beef dogs, cheese dogs, and bun-length dogs.

Read these sentences from paragraph 3 of the essay. (109)

The way Americans prepare their hot dogs depends on where they live. Hot dog lovers in Chicago, _____, often use yellow mustard, dark green relish, chopped raw onion, tomato slices, celery salt, and poppy seed buns with their hot dogs.

24. Which transition could *best* be placed in the blank space?

- A unfortunately
- B for example
- C nevertheless
- D moreover

25. Which keyword entry could the author of the essay have used for an Internet search to find out that most people prefer mustard on their hot dogs? (110)

- A** most popular hot dog topping
- B** how to prepare hot dogs
- C** hot dog sales in the United States
- D** types of hot dogs