

March Midterm Language Arts Study Guide

Part 1: Pronouns

1. The seven types of pronouns are
 - a. **PERSONAL**
 - b. **INDEFINITE**
 - c. **REFLEXIVE**
 - d. **INTENSIVE**
 - e. **RELATIVE**
 - f. **DEMONSTRATIVE**
 - g. **INTERROGATIVE**
2. The four demonstrative pronouns are THIS, THAT, THESE, THOSE
3. INTERROGATIVE pronouns are used to ask a question.
4. REFLEXIVE and INTENSIVE pronouns end in -self or -selves.

Correctly identify the type of pronoun used in the following sentences.

5. REFLEXIVE Joseph hid himself from the robbers.
6. PERSONAL/ SUBJECT She and I are going to Six Flags this weekend.
7. OBJECT The girl was kicked by him.
8. REFLEXIVE The dog licked itself.
9. INTERROGATIVE Whose pen is this?
10. INDEFINITE Someone pushed me on the bus before I fell.

Part 2: Connotation, Denotation, Tone, Author's Purpose, text structures.

11. DENOTATION is the dictionary definition of the word.
12. TONE is how the author feels about his or her subject.
13. AUTHOR'S PURPOSE the reason the author writes his or her text.

Identify the author's purpose in the following passages. (entertain, describe, persuade, inform)

14. INFORM/Describe An instructional booklet describing how to operate a smart phone.

15. ____PERSUADE____ An article where the author argues that an iPhone is better than an Android phone.

16. ____DESCRIBE____ A medical report describing the effects of steroids on the human body

What is the text structure of the following passages?

17. ____Problem/Solution____ Wild chimpanzees are rapidly disappearing. Some people are trying to solve this problem. Otherwise, chimpanzees may one day exist only in zoos. People are trying to save the rainforests and woodlands where the chimps live from being cut down. It will take many people working together to solve this problem.

18. ____Cause/Effect____ Chimps live in groups and like each other a lot, but sometimes they fight. Because they don't want to stay angry at each other after a fight, they make up by holding a hand out to the other and kissing. They show they are sorry with pats and hugs. Then the anger goes away.

19. ____Sequence____ A chimpanzee's body is made for climbing and swinging in the trees. First, it uses its long arms to reach a branch. Next, with its flexible hands and feet, it grabs and hooks onto the branch. Finally, it swings from that branch to another branch of the tree.

Choose the word that best expresses the tone in the following passages.

20. Why do these things always happen to me?, Brad wondered. First I forget an important meeting, and nobody reminds me until it's over. Then my boss dumps a big project on my desk and wants it done by yesterday. And to top everything off, I leave my wallet on the bus.

- a. comic b. self-pitying c. optimistic

21. We have come together this afternoon to mourn the deaths of sixteen miners — our friends and neighbors — who were trapped by fire yesterday, deep below the earth. They lived bravely and they died too soon, leaving behind grieving wives and bewildered children. ~~We bid them~~ a final farewell.

- a. forgiving b. sorrowful c. angry

22. Sure, litterbugs account for a lot of the trash blowing around our city's streets, but there are other villains too. What about people who set out their trash days ahead of their scheduled trash pickup time? Worse yet are the stores that pile boxes in back alleys, and restaurants whose mounds of green — bagged trash draw rodents and roaches.

a. critical

b. tolerant

c. depressed

It's For You!"

Read the selection, and then answer the questions that follow.

- (1) You can't go anywhere today without running into someone using a cell phone. People are either talking on them or texting. Okay, so we know the handheld devices are helpful tools, but shouldn't there be some rules about their use in society? Just because someone has a cell phone, does that make it okay to talk rowdily on it in public? Does everyone in the vicinity have to be bombarded with one-sided conversations, even if they don't want to? Not everyone agrees.
- (2) Some people, usually those who use their cells a lot, say it's totally okay to use them anywhere, anytime. They may allege, "America's a free country and it's my right to talk in public! Other people talk to each other all the time while they walk down the street or eat in a restaurant. What's the difference if I talk to someone face-to-face or on a cell? If other people don't like hearing my phone conversations, they don't have to listen! I think *they* should move away from me so they don't hear what I'm saying! After all, it's very rude to eavesdrop! Besides, cells phones are essential in today's world. You see stories on TV all the time about people trapped in elevators, or under rubble from earthquakes or hurricanes, who used their cells to get help that saved their lives. And cells help kids keep in touch with their families . . . so the kids and their parents feel safer!"
- (3) Other people see things differently and say things like, "Public places are for everyone. It's true that this is a free country, so why should I be forced to listen to loud talking and laughing, especially when it's usually about stuff that's really lame or should be private anyway? Trust me, no one wants to hear about the fight you had with your friend, the movie you saw, or what you're wearing to the school dance! People should be able to hang out at the mall or ride a bus without hearing brainless conversations. Last week I was almost knocked down by someone skating at the ice rink and talking on the phone at the same time! If it's important enough for you to call someone, take the time to do it right. A phone conversation is private, so keep yours to yourself! Talking on a cell in public is not only bad mannered, it adds to noise pollution!"
- (4) Is there a happy medium between using a cell "wherever and whenever" and outlawing its use altogether? Sure, it's called common sense. Be respectful of other people's rights. Don't talk so loudly on the phone. . . . The person on the other end can hear just fine without your shouting . . . and adjust the ring tones so you don't hog the air that's for all to share.

23 Which word could the author have used instead of *rowdily* that means the same but has a less negative connotation?

a. softly

b. loudly

c. happily

d. quietly

24. Which word in the following sentence gives a negative connotation? They may allege, "America's a free country and it's my right to talk in public!"

a. free

b. right

c. allege

d. public

25. Which word in the second paragraph is a positive connotation for *important*?

- a essential
- b difference
- c. conversation
- d eavesdrop

26. What is the denotation of the word *hog*? What is its connotation in the last paragraph? Why do you think the author used that word?

denotation: a large farm animal akin to a pig

connotation: someone who is using up something needed by others. The author uses this to show how rude people who talk on phones in public are.

Part 3: Informative Writing

27. What is a thesis statement?

The sentence in your essay that tells the reader what your paper will be about.

28. What are the three parts of the introductory paragraph?

Hook, bridge, thesis

29. Which of these is **not** a type of hook that you may use in an informational essay?

- a. definition
- b. figurative language
- c. anecdote
- d. a statement of opinion

30. _____transition_____ words and phrases move you from one idea to the next in your writing.

31. A student use the following thesis statement in his essay on great places to visit in America: *Mount Rushmore is one of America's most beloved historical landmarks; its history, homage to the founding fathers and historic location makes it an excellent tourist attraction.*

Which of these details does not relate to the writer's thesis?

- a. Mt. Rushmore is larger than Stone Mountain
- b. Mt. Rushmore is located in Black Hill's National Forest
- c. Presidents Washington, Lincoln and Roosevelt are all carved on Mt. Rushmore
- d. Mt. Rushmore opened to the public during the 1930's.