G4 Being a Writer

Week 1

Directions:

• Work on your writing prompt throughout the week. Complete your brainstorming, draft, revising and editing, and final draft.
• Complete one STAAR practice a day.
• Complete one Daily Gram a day.
• Complete one Skills Practice a day.
Writing Prompt
READ the information in the box below.

In the book *Oh, the Places You’ll Go!*, Dr. Seuss writes, “Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting. So . . . get on your way!”

THINK about all the different places you could visit or things you could do in the future.

WRITE about something that you look forward to doing. Tell what you want to do and explain why you want to do it.

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.
USE THIS PREWRITING PAGE TO PLAN YOUR COMPOSITION.
STAAR Practice
Sharlee wrote this paper to tell about making homemade ice cream. She wants you to help her improve the paper. Read Sharlee's paper. Then answer the questions that follow.

**Ice Cream in a Can**

(1) There's nothing better than cold ice cream on a hot summer day. (2) Last summer, my Uncle Charles taught me how to make ice cream in a can. (3) Anyone can make ice cream. (4) With a few simple ingredients and two empty cans.

(5) Before beginning, you have to gather a few supplies. (6) First you will need one cup of milk, one cup of cream, a half-cup of sugar, and a teaspoon of vanilla flavoring. (7) Second, you will need two empty coffee cans that have plastic lids. (8) One can should be the 12-ounce size and the other should be the 30-ounce size or larger. (9) And finally you will need a pound of rock salt and a couple of pounds of ice cubes. (10) The rest is easy.

(11) Fill the smaller can with the cup of milk, the cup of cream, and the half-cup of sugar. (12) Add the teaspoon of vanilla flavoring and a teaspoon of salt. (13) Stir the ingredients vigorously.

(14) Place the lid on the smaller can and then place it inside the larger can. There should be plenty of empty space around the smaller can. (15) You're going to fill this space with ice and rock salt. (16) You're going to fill this space with ice and rock salt. (17) Pour in a couple of inches of ice and then sprinkle some rock salt on the ice. (18) Repeat this procedure until the empty space is filled with ice and rock salt.

(19) It's time to rock and roll. (20) Roll the can on the ground for twenty to thirty minutes. (21) Two people can sit on the ground and roll the can back and forth between them.

(22) When you open the smaller can, you'll find a tasty frozen treat inside. (23) It's genuine ice cream and it tastes real good!
Juanita wrote a paper about a breed of dog called Basenji. Juanita wants you to revise and edit her paper. Read Juanita's paper and think about the corrections she needs to make.

The Barkless Dog

(1) A few years ago I asked my mother to buy me a pet dog. (2) She said, "If you can find a breed of dog that doesn't bark, I'll buy one for you. (3) Otherwise, you're going to have to settle for a cat." (4) I was not a cat enthusiast, so I searched on the Internet for a "barkless" dog. (5) Neither my mother nor I could believe that such a dog existed, but it did! (6) We learned of the "barkless" breed of dog called the Basenji.

(7) Basenjis are an ancient breed of dogs that date back to the days of the Egyptian pharaohs. (8) In Africa they were prized by their owners. (9) Because of their hunting skills. (10) They have a keen sense of smell and are fast runners.

(11) Basenjis are, in fact, barkless due to the shape of their larynaxes. (12) It is a trait Basenjis probably have had for thousands of years. (13) However, they can make a sound called a barroo. (14) A barroo is basically a yodel. (15) They also make an ear-piercing shriek if you accidentally step on their feet or if they are frightened.

(16) What do Basenjis look like. (17) They are medium-sized dogs with short, smooth coats of hair. (18) They have curled tails and erect ears. (19) The colors that you might see in a Basenji are red and white, black and white, and brindle. (20) Brindle means reddish with "tiger" stripes.

(21) Basenjis are very smart and love to be with people. (22) They make great pets. (23) I know cause my mother bought me two of them, Jack and Tiger Lily!
1. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 3?
   A. Change had to have
   B. Change threw to through
   C. Change night to nite
   D. Make no change.

2. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 5?
   F. Change put to putt
   G. Insert a comma after quick
   H. Change quick to quickly
   J. No change should be made.

3. What is the correct way to write sentence 11?
   A. She said, "It looks like you might have a snow day today."
   B. She says, "It looks like you might have a snow day today."
   C. She said, "It look like you might have a snow day today."
   D. Sentence 11 is written correctly in the story.

4. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 13?
   F. Delete the comma
   G. Change it's to its
   H. Change the first to to too
   J. Sentence 13 should not be changed.

5. Takiyah wants to add the prepositional phrase in blue letters to sentence 15. Where is the BEST place to insert this phrase?
   A. After the word message
   B. After the word slowly
   C. After the word across
   D. After the word bottom

6. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 22?
   F. Change dressed to dress
   G. Change warmly to warmly
   H. Change hurried to hurried
   J. No change should be made.

7. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 24?
   A. Change either to neither
   B. Change or to nor
   C. Change build to billed
   D. No change should be made.
Diego wrote a paper about rescuing birds. He has asked you to read the paper and suggest ways that he can improve it. Read Diego’s paper. Then answer the questions.

Rescuing Baby Birds

1. My aunt is a hero to birds because she is a bird rescuer in her neighborhood.
2. Whenever someone finds a baby bird either on the ground or in need of help, they call Aunt Carla.
3. She has a lot of experience rescuing birds.
4. Over the years, she has taught me some stuff about rescuing baby birds.
5. You might find some of this information useful.
6. If you find a baby bird on the ground, you may think that you should pick it up.
7. My aunt said that you shouldn’t pick up a baby bird right away.
8. Wait for an hour or two.
9. See if its parents rescue the bird first.
10. Most of the time, the parents of the bird are nearby.
11. Scan the nearby trees and see if you can spot them.
12. While you are waiting for the bird’s parents, you can do two helpful things.
13. First, make sure there are no predators around, like cats.
14. If you see a predator, try to scare it away with the help of an adult.
15. Second, try to find the nest from which the bird fell.
16. If you have waited two hours and you have not seen the parents of the bird.
17. It’s time to rescue it.
18. If you know which nest it fell out of, try to place the bird back in its nest with the help of an adult.
19. You should wear protective gloves.
20. If you can’t find the nest, then you need to protect the bird until a wildlife rescue service can send help.
21. Carefully place the bird inside a small box.
22. Place tissue or paper towels in the box.
23. Cover the box with a towel, but leave a hole in the top for oxygen.
24. Put the box in a quiet place.
25. Do not try to feed the bird.

In fact her neighbors affectionately refer to her as the bird lady.

Where should Diego insert this sentence?

A. At the beginning of the paragraph
B. After sentence 1
C. After sentence 4
D. At the end of the paragraph

What is the BEST way to combine sentences 16 and 17?

A. It’s time to rescue it, after two hours if the parents of the bird aren’t there yet.
B. If you have not seen the parents, and it’s been two hours, it’s time to rescue it.
C. If you have waited two hours and you have not seen the parents of the bird, it’s time to rescue it.
D. If you have waited two hours and you have not seen the parents of the bird, it’s time to rescue it.

Look at sentence 4. Diego thinks the phrase taught me some stuff is too informal for the audience of this paper. Which phrase could BEST replace taught me some stuff in sentence 4 and help Diego improve his paper?

F. learned a thing or two
G. fried my brain
H. thrown the lowdown my way
J. given me some helpful suggestions

2. Diego would like to add the following sentence to the first paragraph of his paper (sentences 1-5).

3. Diego wants to add a final step to his paper. Which of the following could BEST follow sentence 25 and close this paper?

F. Call a wildlife rescue center. It will send a rescue expert to your house that will pick up the bird and take it to a safe environment to be raised.
G. The bird will probably be cute and you will want to pet it while you wait for the wildlife rescue service to arrive.
H. In addition to rescuing birds, Aunt Carla volunteers at the local fire department on weekends and holidays.
J. Baby birds fear cats most of all. Cats will attack a helpless baby bird the first chance they get.
Michael wrote a paper about his school’s Field Day. He has asked you to read the paper and suggest ways that he can improve it. Read Michael’s paper. Then answer the questions.

**Fun at Field Day**

1. There are many special days to look forward to at my school. (2) We have class parties and holiday parties. (3) We go on study trips to museums and zoos. (4) We visit the fire department and police department. (5) My favorite day of all, Field Day, is my favorite day however fun those days might be.

2. Every year on the last Friday in April. (7) Coach Smith plans a bunch of fun competitions and activities. (8) Parent and community volunteers work many hours to help Coach Smith make Field Day a success. (9) From the first day of school, all the students look forward to this fantastic event.

3. The big event begins right after lunch. (11) A bell rings at 12:45 and everyone rushes outside to the playground. (12) Each student carries a card that lists all of the activities and competitions. (13) After a student completes an activity, his or her card is stamped with a gold star. (14) If a student completes half of the activities, then the student gets a red ribbon at the end of the day. (15) If a student completes all of the activities, then the student gets a blue ribbon.

4. Cheryl, my best friend, and I usually start at the Tug-of-War. (17) We go to the Balloon Toss. (18) We get a little wet there. (19) That’s good because it’s usually hot outside in late April. (20) Then we go to the Three-Legged Race followed by the Potato Sack Race. (21) That gets us pretty sweaty, so we stop at the cold drink station.

5. After we’ve cooled down, we go to the Ping Pong Relay Race and the Shoe Toss.

6. The last competition of the day is everyone’s favorite. (23) The students play a game of kickball against the teachers. (25) The students win it every time.
Daily Grams
DAY 50

CAPITALIZATION:
1. Is the statue of liberty in New York City located on Liberty Island?

PUNCTUATION:
   Underline the title of books, magazines, and movies.
   Place the title of stories, poems, reports, and articles in quotation marks (" ").

   Punctuate these titles:

2. A. (book)  Moby Dick
   B. (story)  Millie
   C. (poem)  If
   D. (magazine)  Baby and Mom

PARTS OF SPEECH: VERBS
   Circle the correct word:

3. The winners (doesn't, don't) get a trophy.

PARTS OF SPEECH: NOUNS
   A noun may show ownership. Add apostrophe (’)+s to a singular (one) noun.
   Example: groceries purchased by my mother: my mother’s groceries

   Write the possessive:

4. a map belonging to Emma - ________________________________

SENTENCE COMBINING:

5. Chessa collects stickers.
   Chessa collects stamps.
   Chessa also collects shells.

   ________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________
DAY 51

CAPITALIZATION:

Remember:

Capitalize the Roman numerals (I, II, III, IV, V, etc.) and letters for each major division in an outline. Capitalize the first word of each line.

Capitalize the outline:

1. i. schools
   a. public schools
   b. private schools

PUNCTUATION:

2. I need the following vegetables carrots, potatoes and onions

PARTS OF SPEECH: ADVERBS

Circle any adverbs that tell where:

3. Has everyone gone inside?

PARTS OF SPEECH: VERBS

Some verbs show action.
Some verbs make a statement.
Place a ✓ if the verb shows action:

4. A. ___ Laura glued felt to a paper.
   B. ___ Matt and Molly placed screens on their windows.
   C. ___ You seem sad.

SENTENCE COMBINING:

5. Sally’s lock was broken.
   Sally bought a new one.
DAY 52

CAPITALIZATION:

1. little brad has read the book, here comes the snow.

PUNCTUATION:

Punctuate this heading and greeting (salutation) of a friendly letter:

2. 52 Elm Ln
   Gettysburg PA 17325
   May 8 20--

   Dear Paco

PARTS OF SPEECH: NOUNS

Place a \(\checkmark\) if the noun is common:

3. A. \(\checkmark\) Jane
   B. \(\checkmark\) poodle
   C. \(\checkmark\) New Mexico
   D. \(\checkmark\) Thorn Theater
   E. \(\checkmark\) school
   F. \(\checkmark\) market

PARTS OF SPEECH: VERBS

Underline the subject once. Place two lines under the verb that agrees with the subject:

4. My cousins (visits, visit) often.

SENTENCE COMBINING:

5. We watched television.
   We ate popcorn.
CAPITALIZATION:

Do not capitalize a school subject unless it's a language or has a number.

Examples: science
          Art I
          Spanish

1. last fall, mrs. kirk's reading class went to a library on elton circle.

PUNCTUATION:

2. I Arizona
   A Climate
   B Cities

PARTS OF SPEECH: VERBS

Can means to be able to.
May states a possibility or asks permission.

Circle the correct verb:

3. I ( may, can ) have to wait until Friday.

PARTS OF SPEECH: CONJUNCTIONS/INTERJECTIONS

Circle any conjunctions; box any interjections:

4. Whoa! Slow down or stop!

SENTENCE COMBINING:

5. The man drew a picture.
The man is an artist.
The picture was of a clown.
DAY 54

CAPITALIZATION:
   Capitalize both letters of a state postal code. Example: Utah - UT
   Capitalize this heading and greeting:

1. 333 strom street
    shippensburg, pa 17257
    april 22, 20--

dear yancy,

PUNCTUATION:

2. No Katies pen wont work

PARTS OF SPEECH:  ADJECTIVES
   Circle any articles and descriptive adjectives:

3. A white furry bunny hopped to me.

DIFFICULT WORDS:
   Circle the correct word:

4. A. ( Their, They're, There ) teacher is absent.
   B. I think that ( it's, its ) paw is stuck.

SENTENCE COMBINING:

5. The dessert is delicious.
The dessert is pie.
The pie is apple.
Skills Practice
Star Gazing

A. Read each sentence. Underline the complete subject and circle the simple subject.

1. My friend Alex watches the night sky from his window.

2. Alex’s new telescope zooms in on Mars.

3. My cousin Clare uses the telescope often, too.

4. The brightest star in the sky is extra bright tonight!

5. Clare finds the North Star easily.

B. Choose a simple subject from the word box to complete each sentence. Then circle the complete subject.

blankets  puppy  Sarita  shower  sky

1. The cloudless ____________ makes this a good night for looking at stars.

2. Our fluffy ____________ are on the ground.

3. My best friend ____________ lies down on one blanket.

4. My brand-new ____________ lies beside me on the other.

5. The meteor ____________ is about to begin!

C. Write a paragraph about something you like to look at in your surroundings. Use complete sentences.
A Change in Plans

A. Read each sentence. Underline the complete predicate. Write the simple predicate on the line.

1. Ramon and his friend Nico hiked into the woods. _____________

2. They left their bug spray at home by mistake. _____________

3. Mosquitoes buzzed all around them. _____________

4. Ramon and Nico changed their plans quickly. _____________

5. The two friends raced out of the woods. _____________

6. They went to a nearby lake instead. _____________

B. Choose a simple predicate from the word box to complete each sentence. Then circle the complete predicate.

rested  listened  built  felt  swam

1. Ramon _____________ laps in the lake.

2. The cool water _____________ good on his bug bites.

3. Nico _____________ on his towel in the warm sun.

4. He _____________ to the songs of different birds.

5. Little children _____________ sand castles along the shore.

C. Write a short passage about something fun to do with a friend. Use complete sentences.
Big Bad Wolves?

A. Read the paragraph. Above each underlined word or phrase, write complete subject, simple subject, complete predicate, or simple predicate.

Many people are afraid of wolves. “Big bad wolves” are dangerous in many stories. In “Little Red Riding Hood,” a wolf threatens to eat a little girl. In “The Three Little Pigs,” a wolf bullies three helpless pigs. The truth is, wolves are very shy. They live in places that have very few people.

B. What is missing to make each phrase below a complete sentence? Write S (for subject), P (for predicate), or B (for both) on the line.

1. A big fear of wolves ______
2. is an endangered animal ______
3. Need protection ______
4. The U.S. government ______
5. in packs with their pups ______

C. Write a paragraph about an animal. Use five complete sentences.
Tadpoles and Frogs

A. Read each sentence. Decide whether it is a simple sentence or a compound sentence. Write S (for simple) or C (for compound) on the line.

1. Tadpoles are baby frogs or toads. ______
2. Tadpoles hatch from eggs, and they live in water. ______
3. The tadpole has no legs at first, but then back legs begin to form. ______
4. Skin grows over the tadpole’s gills. ______
5. Then front legs appear on the tadpole’s body. ______
6. The tadpole’s lungs grow, and its tail shrinks. ______
7. Some tadpoles take up to two years to grow into frogs. ______

B. Complete each compound sentence by adding a comma and a conjunction. Use each conjunction from the word box one time.

   and  but  or

1. Frogs catch insects with their tongues ______ they don’t swallow just anything.
2. Frogs have a strong sense of taste ______ they often spit out nasty-tasting bugs.
3. A frog may spend the winter in a hole in the ground ______ it may bury itself at the bottom of a pond.

C. Write a paragraph about an animal. Use both simple and compound sentences.
Damien’s Dreams

A. Complete the story by writing and, or, or but in each space.

Damien has been having strange dreams, _______ last night he dreamed he was a giant balloon. He tried staying seated during math class, _______ he kept floating out of his chair. He bumped his head on the ceiling, _______ then he bumped into a bookcase. Damien tried to float out the window, _______ the window was closed. Damien might try drinking warm milk before bedtime, _______ he might just stop snacking after dinner!

B. Draw a line from each sentence on the left to a sentence on the right. Write the new compound sentences on the lines, adding commas and conjunctions where they belong.

Sunita’s dreams were boring. She saw her sister popping bubble wrap.
Bubbles filled her bedroom. One night she had an unusual dream.
Sunita finally woke up. Each one exploded with a loud pop.

1. ____________________________
2. ____________________________
3. ____________________________

C. Write a paragraph about a funny dream someone might have. Use simple and compound sentences.