G4 Being a Writer
Week 4

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
WRITTEN COMPOSITION: Expository

READ the information in the box below.

When we are young, we often imagine having the chance to meet someone we admire.

THINK about having the chance to meet anyone in the world. What person would you choose to meet?

WRITE about the person you would want to meet and explain why you would choose that person.

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
Xiao-Chen wrote this paper to tell about uninvited guests. She wants you to help her improve the paper. Read Xiao-Chen's paper. Then answer the questions that follow.

Oh, Rats!

(1) There are a lot of trees in my backyard, and the trees serve as a home to a variety of playful birds and spirited squirrels. (2) I sit and watch these frisky critters search for food while I sit in my favorite chair on weekends on the porch. (3) The birds look for seeds and insects. (4) Meanwhile, the squirrels look for seeds and nuts.

(5) I asked my mother to buy some Wild Critter Food at the store. (6) I wanted to feed the birds and squirrels on the porch. (7) I was hoping to get closer to them while they ate so I could take some photographs.

(8) My mom bought a bag of critter food the next day. (9) The bag was full of sunflower seeds, various nuts, and small pieces of dried fruit. (10) Every afternoon I spread some of the food on the floor on the far end of the porch. (11) I placed my favorite chair on the opposite end.

(12) Within a week, the back porch looked like a nature preserve with all of the bustling activity of birds and squirrels. (13) The birds loved to eat the sunflower seeds and dried fruit. (14) The squirrels relished the various nuts. (15) I loved to watch them, and I snapped some great photos. (16) My favorite photograph of all time, entitled Moon and Half Dome, was taken by Ansel Adams.

(17) About a week later, the rats arrived. (18) My mother was upset. (19) She said that wild rats were not a good animal to have living around the house because they spread diseases.

(20) I made a plan to feed the birds and squirrels but not attract the rats. (21) The plan involved a broom. (22) The next day, I fed the birds and squirrels from 3:00 to 4:00. (23) After they finished eating, I carefully swept up the leftover food and threw it away.

1 What is the BEST way to revise sentence 2?

A These frisky critters I watch on weekends search for food while I sit on the porch in my favorite chair.
B On weekends, I sit in my favorite chair on the porch and watch these frisky critters search for food.
C I sit on my favorite chair, watch these frisky critters, and search for food on weekends on the porch.
D I watch these frisky critters search for food in my favorite chair on weekends on the porch while I sit.

2 What is the BEST way to combine sentences 3 and 4?

F The birds look for seeds and insects, the squirrels look for seeds and nuts.
G The birds and squirrels both look for seeds, and the squirrels look for nuts.
H The birds look for seeds and insects while the squirrels look for seeds and nuts.
J The birds look either for seeds or insects, but the squirrels don't look for insects.

3 Xiao-Chen would like to add the following sentence to her paper.

Apparently, the leftover food that the birds and squirrels didn't eat was attracting the rats at night.

Where should Xiao-Chen insert this sentence?

A After sentence 17
B After sentence 20
C After sentence 14
D After sentence 10

4 Xiao-Chen wants to add a closing sentence to her paper. Which sentence could BEST follow sentence 23?

F The rats didn't come back and I never fed those birds and squirrels again.
G The moral of the story is: do unto others as you would have them do unto you.
H This is the end of my paper and I hope you can learn from my mistake.
J To my mother's relief, the plan worked and the rats didn't come back.

5 Which sentence does not belong in this paper?

A Sentence 1  B Sentence 7  C Sentence 16  D Sentence 21
Christina wrote a story about sharing a bedroom. She wants you to read the paper and suggest any corrections that she should make. When you finish reading Christina’s story, answer the questions that follow.

Bunk Beds

(1) Emily entered the new house that her parents had just bought, she reluctantly looked around. (2) She walked through the small house and counted the bedrooms. (3) She said, “Mom, there are only three bedrooms in this house!”

(4) Her mother said, “Mandy and you will have to share a bedroom. (5) Since Maddie’s a baby, she will need her own room. (6) She wakes up twice each night for a feeding.”

(7) Baby Maddie’s old sisters were not happy. (8) They didn’t have to share a room in their last house. (9) Mandy and Emily somberly trudged into their new empty bedroom. (10) The room was very small. (11) From the door their Father said, “You two will have to sleep in bunk beds. (12) And you might have to share a dresser, too.”

(13) Mandy said, “Little sister, when we get the new bunk beds you will have to sleep on the bottom bunk. (14) The top bunk will be to high off the ground.” (15) Emily felt relieved. (16) She didn’t want to sleep on the top bunk anyway.

(17) For the next few years, Emily happily slept on the bottom bunk. (18) She liked it because it was close to the ground and it didn’t take long to get into and out of it. (19) In addition, she didn’t have to worry about falling out of bed at night.

(20) The day finally arrived when it was time for Mandy to move out because she was entering college. (21) That was fortunate because there was a new baby coming. (22) Maddie, now calling herself Madeline, would have to move into Emily’s room so the new baby could have his own room.

(23) Madeline cautiously entered her new room. (24) Emily said, “Hey, little sister, you take the bottom bunk. (25) You’ll like it because you won’t have to worry about falling out of bed at night.” (26) Emily felt mature. (27) Madeline felt relieved.

1 What is the correct way to write sentence 1?
   A Emily entered the new house that her parents had just bought. Reluctantly looked around.
   B Emily entered the new house that her parents, had just bought, she reluctantly looked around.
   C Emily entered the new house that her parents had just bought, and she reluctantly looked around.
   D Sentence 1 is written correctly in the paper.

2 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 5?
   F Change Since to Cents
   G Change Maddie’s to Maddies
   H Change her to hers
   J Make no change.

3 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 7?
   A Change Maddie’s to Maddies
   B Change old to older
   C Change were to was
   D No change should be made.

4 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 11?
   F Change their to there
   G Change Father to father
   H Dolce the comma
   J Sentence 11 should not be changed.

5 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 14?
   A Change be to bee
   B Change to to too
   C Insert a comma after high
   D Sentence 14 should not be changed.

6 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 20?
   F Change finely to finally
   G Change out to outside
   H Change she to her
   J No change should be made.

7 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 22?
   A Change herself to itself
   B Change would to wood
   C Change Emily’s to Emily
   D No change should be made.
Countdown to the Writing STAAR

Grade 4 Series 7 Comp 3

Dominic's class has been studying tall buildings. Dominic wrote this report to tell what he learned about the Eiffel Tower. He wants you to correct the errors in his report. Read the report and answer the questions that follow.

The Eiffel Tower

(1) The Eiffel Tower was built for the World's Fair in 1889 in Paris in which the fair was held. (2) At the time, the Eiffel Tower was the tallest structure in the world. (3) It is no longer the tallest structure in the world, but it is still the tallest structure in Paris.

(4) The tower was designed by a man named Gustave Eiffel. (5) Gustave was an architect who built bridges and structures out of metal. (6) Not many people know this, but he also helped build the Statue of Liberty.

(7) One of Gustave's lifelong dreams was to design and build the tallest structure in the world. (8) At first, he wanted to build the Eiffel Tower in Canada. (9) Canada didn't want it. (10) He decided to build it in Paris instead.

(11) When the tower was completed, it stood over 320 meters high. (12) It was made of steel, though. (13) It was constructed of a special iron called puddle iron. (14) It was a very pure form of iron. (15) Ultimately, 7,000 tons of puddle iron the Eiffel Tower was made of. (16) After it was built, the puddle iron was painted with 60 tons of paint.

(17) More than six million people visit the tower each year. (18) Visitors can go to each of the three levels of the tower. (19) The first level of the tower has shops, places to eat, and a museum. (20) The second level has a snack bar and an observation deck. (21) The third level gives visitors a breathtaking view of Paris!

(22) The people of Paris did not like the tower at first, but they grew to love it.

1 Dominic wants to improve the topic sentence he has written at the beginning of the first paragraph (sentences 1-3). Which of the following could BEST replace sentence 1?

A Held in Paris, the Eiffel Tower was built for the World's Fair in 1889.
B The Eiffel Tower, for the World's Fair, was built in 1889 that was held in Paris.
C For the World's Fair, the Eiffel Tower was built in 1889 that was held in Paris.
D The Eiffel Tower was built in 1889 for the World's Fair that was held in Paris.

2 Which transition word or phrase could BEST be added to the beginning of sentence 9?

F For example
G However
H In the same way
J Finally

3 What is the BEST way to revise sentence 15?

A Puddle iron, 7,000 tons of it, was what ultimately the Eiffel Tower was made of.
B Ultimately, the Eiffel Tower was made of 7,000 tons. Of puddle iron.
C Ultimately, the Eiffel Tower was made of 7,000 tons of puddle iron.
D Sentence 15 does not need to be revised.

4 Dominic wants to add more to the conclusion. Which of the following could BEST follow sentence 22 and close this report?

F Most people agree that the Statue of Liberty is more magnificent than the Eiffel Tower.
G Millions of people throughout the world came to love this beautiful and interesting tower as well.
H Gustave Eiffel had finally gotten his revenge upon the dithering people of Paris.
J It is reported that Gustave Eiffel died in 1923 while listening to Beethoven's Fifth Symphony.
**Countdown to the Writing STAAR**

**Grade 4 Series 7 Comp 4**

Regina is writing a paper about how to earn money. She wants you to read the paper and suggest ways that she can improve it. Read her paper. Then answer the questions.

**Regina Inc.**

1. My best friend Sally gets an allowance. 2. Her parents give her ten dollars each week all she has to do is keep her bedroom clean. 3. My parents haven’t given me an allowance since the time I was in second grade. 4. I have to earn my money.

5. There are many ways to earn money in your neighborhood if you willing to do some work. 6. If there are yards, babies, or cars in your neighborhood, then there are plenty of opportunities to earn some money.

7. Once or twice a month, I babysit my neighbors’ kids. 8. I don’t just watch them as they watch television. 9. I either play games with them or read stories to them. 10. I keep them physically active or mentally engaged at all times. 11. Whenever my neighbors need someone to babysit, they call me immediately. 12. After all, I’m their kids’ favorite babysitter.

13. There is always yard work to be done in my neighborhood and I try to do it all. 14. Every autumn, the leaves fall from the trees and need to be raked. 15. Every winter, the snow collects on the driveways and needs to be shoveled. 16. Every spring, the weeds grow in the gardens and need to be pulled. 17. Every summer, the grass grows thick and need to be mowed.

18. My favorite way to earn money is by washing cars during the warmer months. 19. It’s easy to do because all I need is a sponge, a bucket, a towel, and some soapy water. 20. Washing cars not only gives me a way to earn extra cash but also gives me a way to get some exercise. 21. Washing cars is hard work, but I enjoy it.

22. I like to earn my own money, and it makes me feel good to think that the things I buy come from my own hard work. 23. I’m not gonna tell you how much money I make each week, but I will tell you that my friend Sally is jealous.

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1. What is the correct way to write sentence 2?
   - A. Her parents give her ten dollars each week, all she has to do is keep her bedroom clean.
   - B. Her parents give her ten dollars each week, yet all she has to do is keep her bedroom clean.
   - C. Her parents give her ten dollars each week yet all she has to do is keep her bedroom clean.
   - D. Her parents give her ten dollars each week, or all she has to do is keep her bedroom clean.

2. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 5?
   - F. Change *There* to *Their*
   - H. Change *your willing* to *you’re willing*
   - G. Change *ways to weighs* to *ways to weigh*
   - J. Sentence 5 should not be changed.

3. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 9?
   - A. Change *I* to *We*
   - B. Change *either* to *neither*
   - C. Change *or* to *nor*
   - D. No change should be made.

4. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 11?
   - F. Change *Whenever* to *However*
   - G. Change *neighbors* to *neighbor’s*
   - H. Change *immediately* to *immediately*
   - J. No change should be made.

5. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 17?
   - A. Change *summer* to *Summer*
   - B. Change *need* to *needs*
   - C. Change *moved* to *moed*
   - D. Sentence 17 should not be changed.

6. How should sentence 23 be changed?
   - F. Change *gonna* to *going to*
   - G. Change *much* to *many*
   - H. Delete the comma
   - J. Change *jealous* to *jellyous*
Demont's class is studying science. He wrote this report to tell his class about safety in the science lab. Demont wants you to revise and edit his report. Read Demont's report and then answer the questions that follow.

**Science Lab Safety**

1. A science lab is an interesting place where students can have fun learning about science. (2) It is not a playroom, though. (3) Students must be serious in a science lab or they might get hurt. (4) Students must wear proper safety equipment, and they must follow directions carefully.

2. Safety equipment has a serious purpose. (6) It protects you from harm. (7) Even though they are uncomfortable. (8) Safety goggles should be worn at all times. (9) Chemicals in science labs often splatter. (10) If chemicals get into your eyes, they can cause damage. (11) Lab aprons and rubber gloves should be worn, too. (12) Lab aprons help protect your clothing while rubber gloves protect the skin on your hands and forearms.

3. Many experiments require chemicals that should not be ingested. (14) This is why you should never eat or drink in a science lab. (15) If you are eating in a science lab, you might accidentally get a chemical on your food that you later swallow. (16) For a similar reason, you don't want to drink in a science lab either. (17) You might accidentally take hold of a flask of a chemical instead of the soda you were intending to grab.

4. Students should listen to, and follow, directions carefully. (19) You don't want to mix certain chemicals. (20) It can be very dangerous. (21) The wrong chemicals, when mixed, can produce poisonous gas. (22) They can even explode in certain circumstances. (23) If you aren't sure of what you should be doing during an experiment, clarify the directions and procedures with your teacher.

5. Have fun. (25) Learn about science. (26) But above all, be safe in the science lab!
Daily Grams
CAPITALIZATION:

Capitalize the first word of a direct quotation.

Example: Anna said, "I'm leaving."

If the person talking appears after the spoken words, do not capitalize the word said or similar word.

Example: "I'm leaving," said Anna.

1. "have you been to sedge island?" asked ron.

PUNCTUATION:

Punctuate this part of a friendly letter:

2. Dear Alicia
   You're staying with us next summer
   Love
   Jenny

PARTS OF SPEECH: ADJECTIVES

Circle any adjectives that tell which one(s):

3. Did you paint this picture?

PARTS OF SPEECH: VERBS

Sometimes a sentence contains two or more verbs. This is called a compound verb.

Example: The baker whipped some cream and put it aside.

Underline the subject once and the verb twice:

4. I chopped onions and fried them.

SENTENCE COMBINING:

5. Randy had a party.
   It was a birthday party.
   Fifteen friends attended.
DAY 66

CAPITALIZATION:

Remember:
Do not capitalize foods, games, plants, or animals.

1. our neighbor buys potato chips at franco food factory on deer lane.

PUNCTUATION:

2. Hasnt that chestinge hinge been fixed

PARTS OF SPEECH: VERBS

Write the 23 helping (auxiliary) verbs:

3. d____ h____ m____ sh____ sh____ i____ w____ b____
   d____ h____ m____ c____ w____ a____ w____ b____
   d____ h____ m____ w____ c____ a____ b____

PARTS OF SPEECH:

Circle the correct word:

4. (Their, There, They're) uncle likes to ski.

SENTENCE COMBINING:

5. The day was cold.
The day was windy.
The day was sunny.

______________________________
______________________________
CAPITALIZATION:

1. on independence day, grandpa meese planted roses along briar alley.

PUNCTUATION:

2. They'll be leaving for Madrid* Spain
   *name of a city

PARTS OF SPEECH: VERBS

Some verbs can serve as a helping verb or as a main verb.

Examples: I am a student. (main verb)
           I am going to meet my friend. (helping verb)

3. A. Write a sentence using has as a main verb:

   __________________________________________

B. Write a sentence using has as a helping verb:

   __________________________________________

PARTS OF SPEECH: ADVERBS

Circle any adverbe that tell how:

4. The salesman wrote slowly and carefully.

SENTENCE COMBINING:

5. The floor is wet.
   Cameron has spilled lemonade.

   __________________________________________

   __________________________________________
DAY 68

CAPITALIZATION:

1. their group saw the king and I at ramos theater.

PUNCTUATION:

Use underlining or quotation marks:

2. A. (book) Tex
   B. (story) Cat and the Underworld
   C. (magazine) Friends and Family

PARTS OF SPEECH: PRONOUNS

Pronouns take the place of nouns.
Circle the correct pronoun:

3. That woman loves to travel.

   __________ ( She, Her ) loves to travel.

PARTS OF SPEECH: ADVERBS

Circle any adverbs that tell when:

4. Now and then, we stop for a rest.

SENTENCE COMBINING:

5. Her hair is brown.
   Her hair is curly.
   Her hair needs to be combed.

   ______________________________

   ______________________________
CAPITALIZATION:

Remember:
Capitalize the name of a club or organization.

1. the aztec riding club raised money for the bradford county rodeo.

PUNCTUATION:
Place end punctuation:

2. A. Are you leaving
   B. Please leave
   C. I'm leaving
   D. Yeah! We're leaving

FRIENDLY LETTER:
The parts of a friendly letter are body, greeting, closing, heading, and signature.
Label the parts of this friendly letter:

3. 
   
   (A) ________________ 22 Doe Lane
   Ogden, UT 84415
   May 9, 20--
   
   Dear Anya, (B) ________________
   
   We are having a great time here in Portland. (C) ________________
   
   Love, (D) ________________
   
   Dana (E) ________________

PREFIXES/ROOTS/SUFFIXES:

4. The root of improper is ________________________.

SENTENCE COMBINING:

5. The fair will be held next week.
   It is a state fair.
   We are going.

__________________________________________________

__________________________________________________
Skills Practice
At the Aquarium

A. What is needed to make each fragment a complete sentence? Write S (for subject), P (for predicate), or B (for both).

1. The underwater world of sharks. 

2. Feeds the shark raw meat. 

3. Hears the tour guide’s stories. 

4. A shark’s teeth. 

5. In the large fish tank. 

B. Correct each sentence fragment. Write the new sentence on the line.

1. On our field trip to the aquarium.

2. The penguins and the sea otters.

3. The new jellyfish exhibit.

4. Told us all about the jellyfish.

5. Moved like dancers through the water.

C. Write a brief passage about your favorite field trip. Be sure to use complete sentences.
The Kelp Forest

A. Draw a line to connect each simple sentence on the left to a sentence on the right. Write the new sentences on the lines. Add a comma and the conjunction and, but, or or.

I saw an underwater forest. It can grow as tall as 100 feet.

Kelp grows in shallow ocean waters. It will die.

Kelp needs sunlight. It was made of a plant called kelp.

1. _________________________________________________________

2. _________________________________________________________

3. _________________________________________________________

B. Combine each pair of sentences using the correct conjunction. Circle the conjunction, and write the new sentence on the line.

1. My dad works at the aquarium. The visitors watch him. (after, while)

   _________________________________________________________

2. He works in the kelp forest. It needs tending. (before, when)

   _________________________________________________________

3. He untangles blades of kelp. Fish get caught in them! (before, unless)

   _________________________________________________________

C. Write a brief passage about a fish you have seen or would like to see. Use simple, compound, and complex sentences.
Strange Sea Life

A. Read the passage. Correct each run-on sentence. Remember that there are two ways to correct a run-on.

What has a head like a horse and a tail like a monkey a seahorse does! A seahorse has fins for moving it also has gills for breathing. A seahorse’s tail can grab onto blades of sea grass the seahorse stays in one place. A seahorse has fringes on its skin they blend in with the grass. The seahorse can hide from its enemies it waits for its food to float by.

B. Write a brief description of a living thing you might see under water. Vary the length of your sentences, but be sure there are no fragments or run-ons.
Get Fit with a Friend

A. Read each sentence. Circle the three nouns in each sentence.

1. My two older sisters do push-ups in the morning.
2. Doctors say that exercise is important for our bodies.
3. Physical activity is good for children and adults.
4. Athletes need to have strong bones and muscles.
5. You need the right shoes to protect your feet during a workout.

B. Circle the noun that correctly completes each sentence. Write the noun on the line.

1. I read that getting fit can help prevent some ______________.
   (illness, illnesses)

2. I may try jogging and tumbling with my ______________ Ben and Sara. (friends, friendies)

3. Sara has many athletic ______________. (ability, abilities)

4. My dad plays on a baseball team with some ______________ from his work. (mans, men)

5. All men and ______________ should find workout routines they enjoy! (women, womans)

C. Write a paragraph about a fun way someone could get fit. Use singular and plural nouns.
Fruit or Chocolate?

A. Circle the possessive noun in each sentence. Circle S if the noun is singular possessive and P if it is plural possessive.

1. Mattie’s lunch always includes a banana.  
   S  P

2. Apples are my sister’s favorite snack.  
   S  P

3. Fruits and vegetables are an important part of children’s diets.  
   S  P

4. The body’s health depends on plenty of fresh food.  
   S  P

5. Maybe my friends’ eating habits will rub off on me!  
   S  P

B. Circle the possessive noun that correctly completes each sentence. Write the noun on the line.

1. ____________ favorite snack is a strawberry smoothie.  
   (Martha’, Martha’s)

2. Strawberries contain vitamins that are good for ____________ health.  
   (people’s, peoples’)

3. Martha just likes the ____________ sweet taste.  
   (strawberries’s, strawberries’)

4. She adds plain yogurt to create the ____________ creamy texture.  
   (drinks’, drink’s)

5. Most ____________ ingredients also include milk or ice.  
   (smoothies’, smoothie’s)

C. Write a short passage about a healthy food you enjoy. Use at least two possessive nouns.