

English I Modified

Administered April 2014

RELEASED

READING



Yes, You Can!

Hard Work Beats Natural Talent Every Time

In this persuasive article, the author suggests that hard work, rather than natural-born talent, is the key to being great at something. He gives the examples of musician and composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and tennis champions Venus and Serena Williams. Read the article to learn more about the author's opinion.

Yes, You Can!

Hard Work Beats Natural Talent Every Time

- 1 How many times have you had a conversation about a great performance by quarterback Peyton Manning or media star and businesswoman Oprah Winfrey? Some may say, "Well, they are just lucky to have been born with a lot of talent." But have you ever considered that it might be more than that?
- 2 "Born with a lot of talent" implies some superior genetic inheritance, mixed with a bit of magical child-prodigy dust. Saying that someone's accomplishments are the result of natural talent suggests that skill is the result of an inherited gene. In other words, the concept of natural talent implies that achievements are really just a matter of luck.
- 3 An unusually skilled and talented person is often labeled as a prodigy. The dictionary definition of the word *prodigy* is "a person with exceptional talents or powers." That certainly describes many talented people in an accurate way. But often we use the word prodigy inaccurately to imply that a person was simply born talented.
- 4 Throughout history there have been many examples of prodigies. Composer and musician Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart comes to mind first, since not only was he a prodigy, he was an extraordinarily talented *child* prodigy. He began to compose music at the age of five and was giving violin and piano performances by the age of eight. During the 1700s, he went on to create some of the world's most revered and enduring music before his death at 35.
- 5 A more recent example of prodigies includes the two world-class tennis players Venus and Serena Williams. Both of these sisters began playing tennis at the age of five, and by the age of 10, they were considered unusually skilled among athletes of any age. By the age of about 20, each sister had begun to win major titles and each had been ranked as the top female tennis player in the world.
- 6 Is it fair to call Mozart and the Williams sisters prodigies? Yes, because they have demonstrated unusual mastery of a skill. But is it accurate to claim that they have natural talent? To do so implies that there is some

kind of music gene, or tennis gene, or other mysterious gift that the Mozarts and the Williams sisters of the world were born with and the rest of us are sadly deprived of.

- 7 Hogwash. The concept of natural-born talent is pure fiction. Worse, it belittles the accomplishments of talented people. Their greatness does not lie primarily in their genes. The explanation can be summarized in three words: practice, practice, practice. To be great, there is no substitute for hard work. Every one of us is born with the potential to work hard and therefore be great at something.

- 1 What is the purpose of paragraph 3?
- A To provide evidence for the author's argument
 - B To define an important concept
 - C To raise a new question

- 8 Mozart's father was himself a gifted composer, performer, and music teacher. He put his son on a rigorous training routine at the age of three. Young Mozart therefore lived in the same house with his music teacher and coach. He practiced and studied long hours every day, year after year.
- 9 Many of the musical compositions credited to Mozart from his youth were actually heavily edited and altered by his father. None of these works are viewed as great. The first piece of music that is considered a Mozart masterpiece was composed when he was 21. Impressive? Certainly. But that it took him 18 years to get there is easily overlooked.
- 10 Like Mozart, the Williams sisters were coached by their father. He stressed hard work on the tennis court, mental and physical toughness, and a well-rounded education.
- 11 Before she turned five, Venus, the older of the sisters, would often hit 500 tennis balls before taking a break. Her father says that the other girls he coached couldn't hit more than 75 to 100 balls without wanting a break. By the time Venus and Serena had become the top women's players in the world, they had been playing and practicing tennis for about 15 years. The sisters played and practiced harder than most others. As a result, they became successful.
- 12 No one would argue that Mozart and the Williams sisters would have achieved the same success without hard work.
- 13 With Mozart and the Williams sisters, there was a gap of about 15 to 20 years between the start of an intense, persistent period of focused attention to a skill and the achievement of major success with that skill. What each of these people did during that long period provides a more important clue to their success than the notion of natural-born talent.

- 2** Why does the author mention Venus Williams in paragraph 11?
- F** To support the idea that Venus is more talented than her sister
 - G** To demonstrate that Venus's father demanded perfection from her
 - H** To illustrate that Venus's commitment had led to her success

- 14 Recent research has shed light on the subject of success. One landmark study of 20-year-old violin players revealed that the best players, as judged by music teachers, had practiced the most (about 10,000 hours total) over their lives. The next best group had practiced less (about 7,500 hours), and the next group had practiced even less (about 5,000 hours).
- 15 The only thing that distinguished the best players from the rest of the pack was the amount of time they had devoted to their craft. That's all. No other factors explained their success. Some had started playing later than others. Some had shown no unusual talent at first.
- 16 The best-selling author Malcolm Gladwell recently studied highly successful people from many walks of life. He concluded that in fact 10,000 hours was something of a benchmark for mastery for any skill, provided that the practice time was consistent and intense.
- 17 Ten thousand hours. That's two hours of practice, five days a week, fifty weeks a year, for 20 years. Or, for quicker success, increase the daily practice to four hours and get there in 10 years. It's just that simple.
- 18 But, of course, it isn't simple at all. It's hard to be great. Starting at a very young age can certainly help, but getting to the top does not depend on that early start. It depends on your personal commitment to achieving a goal through long, hard work.

Good Versus Great

Good	Great
1,200 hours	10,000 hours
1 hour of practice per day	2 hours of practice per day
3 days per week	5 days per week
40 weeks per year	50 weeks per year
10 years	20 years

- 19 Maybe 10,000 hours is unrealistic for many of us, but even 1,000 hours of dedicated practice will pay big dividends. It will put you 1,000 hours ahead of those slackers who complain that they weren't lucky enough to be born with talent.
- 20 The best time to start is now. It is up to you, not your genes.

- 3 Based on the information in the chart, a person who practiced piano a total of 1,200 hours in 10 years would —
- A get poorer grades in school than the person who practiced 10,000 hours
 - B have to practice more hours, over more years, to become great
 - C not have the natural talent to succeed

-
- 4 Read the following dictionary entry.

pack \ˈpak\ *n*
1. a package of similar objects
2. a bundle assembled for easy carrying
3. a group of people or things

Which definition most closely matches the use of the word pack in paragraph 15?

- F Definition 1
- G Definition 2
- H Definition 3





Hearts and Hands

Adapted from the short story by O. Henry

This selection is based on a short story by the American author O. Henry. Three characters are traveling by train from Denver, Colorado, to Leavenworth, Kansas. Miss Fairchild and Mr. Easton previously knew each other in Washington, D.C. Read the story to discover what happens on the train.

Hearts and Hands

Adapted from the short story by O. Henry

1 There was an influx of passengers into the coaches on the eastbound express train at the Denver station. In one coach sat a very pretty young woman. She was dressed elegantly and surrounded by all the comforts of an experienced traveler. Also on the train were two young men. One was handsome with a bold and honest expression. The other man had a heavy build, was roughly dressed, and had a glum-looking face. The two were handcuffed together.

2 The two men passed down the aisle of the coach. The only vacant seat was one that faced the attractive young woman. The two men sat down. The young woman's glance fell on them with a distant, swift disinterest. Then her look changed to a lively smile that brightened her expression as her round cheeks turned a tender pink. She held out a little gray-gloved hand. When she spoke, her voice was full, sweet, and deliberate. She sounded like someone who was accustomed to speaking and being heard.

3 "Well, Mr. Easton, if you *will* make me speak first, I suppose I must. Don't you ever recognize old friends when you meet them in the West?"

4 The sound of the young woman's voice caused the younger man to suddenly pay attention. He seemed a little embarrassed, but he threw that off instantly. He clasped her fingers with his left hand.

5 "It's Miss Fairchild," he said, with a smile. "I'll ask you to excuse the other hand; it's otherwise engaged just at the present."

6 He slightly raised his right hand, bound at the wrist by the shining "bracelet" to the left one of his companion. The glad look in the girl's eyes slowly changed to a puzzled horror. The glow faded from her cheeks. Easton, with a little laugh, as if amused, was about to speak again when the other man forestalled him. The glum-faced man had been watching the girl's expression with his keen, shrewd eyes.

7 "You'll excuse me for speaking, miss, but I see you're acquainted with the marshal here. If you'll ask him to speak a word for me when we get to the pen, he'll do it, and it'll make things easier for me there. He's taking me to Leavenworth prison. It's seven years for counterfeiting."

- 8 "Oh!" said the girl, with a deep breath and returning color. "So that is what you are doing out here? A marshal?"

5 What does the word influx mean in paragraph 1?

- A A business
- B A burden
- C An arrival

6 Read these sentences from the story.

In one coach sat a very pretty young woman. She was dressed elegantly and surrounded by all the comforts of an experienced traveler.

This description of Miss Fairchild suggests that she is a woman who values —

- F quality
- G simplicity
- H strength

7 Read the following dictionary entry.

pen \ˈpen\ *n*
1. an implement for writing
2. a small enclosure for animals
3. a prison or penitentiary

Which definition best matches the use of the word pen in paragraph 7?

A Definition 1

B Definition 2

C Definition 3

9 "My dear Miss Fairchild," said Easton calmly, "I had to do something. Money has a way of taking wings unto itself. You know it takes money to keep step with our crowd in Washington. I saw this opening in the West, and—well, being a marshal isn't quite as high a position as being an ambassador, but—"

10 "The ambassador," said the girl warmly, "doesn't call anymore. He need not ever have done so. You ought to know that. And so now you are one of these dashing Western heroes, and you ride and shoot and go into all kinds of dangers. That's different from the Washington life. You have been missed from the old crowd."

11 The girl's eyes widened a little and rested on the glittering handcuffs.

12 "Don't you worry about them, miss," said the other man. "All marshals handcuff themselves to their prisoners to keep them from getting away. Mr. Easton knows his business."

13 "Will we see you again in Washington?" asked the girl.

14 "Not soon, I think," said Easton. "My carefree butterfly days are over, I fear."

15 "I love the West," said the girl. Her eyes were shining softly. She looked away out the window. She began to speak truly and simply without the gloss of style and manner: "Mamma and I spent the summer in Denver. She went home a week ago because father was slightly ill. I could live and be happy in the West. I think the air here agrees with me. Money isn't everything. But people always misunderstand things and remain stupid—"

16 "Say, Mr. Marshal," growled the glum-faced man. "This isn't quite fair. I'm thirsty and haven't had anything all day. Haven't you talked long enough? Take me to the lounge car now, won't you? I'm half dead from thirst."

17 The two bound travelers rose to their feet. Easton had the same slow smile on his face.

18 "I can't deny that kind of request," he said, lightly. "Good-bye, Miss Fairchild. Duty calls, you know." He held out his hand for a farewell.

19 "It's too bad you are not going East," she said. "But you must go on to Leavenworth, I suppose?"

- 20 "Yes," said Easton, "I must go on to Leavenworth."
- 21 The two men sidled down the aisle into the lounge car.
- 22 Two passengers in a seat nearby had heard most of the conversation. One of them said, "That marshal's a good sort of chap. Some of these Western fellows are all right."
- 23 "Pretty young to hold an office like that, isn't he?" asked the other.
- 24 "Young!" exclaimed the first speaker. "Why—oh! Didn't you catch on? Say—did you ever know an officer to handcuff a prisoner to his *right* hand?"

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metaphor—a direct comparison of two things that are not alike

- 8 In paragraph 9, the author uses a metaphor to suggest that in Washington, Easton was part of a culture in which he felt the need to —
- F spend money extravagantly
 - G live honestly and simply
 - H seek excitement by traveling

- 9** From the dialogue in paragraphs 9 and 10, the reader can infer that when Mr. Easton and Miss Fairchild knew each other in Washington —
- A** he had asked her to marry him, but she refused
 - B** she was dating an ambassador
 - C** she was angry when he tried to impress her

Use the whole selection “Hearts and Hands” on pages 14–18 to answer questions 10 and 11.

10 Which quotation from the story refers to a traditional American cultural character type?

- F** *"If you'll ask him to speak a word for me when we get to the pen, he'll do it, and it'll make things easier for me there."*
- G** *"And so now you are one of these dashing Western heroes, and you ride and shoot and go into all kinds of dangers."*
- H** *"I think the air here agrees with me. Money isn't everything. But people always misunderstand things and remain stupid—"*

11 In paragraphs 1 through 4, the author refers to Miss Fairchild as a “young woman.” In the rest of the story, he shifts to calling her “the girl.” The author is suggesting that Miss Fairchild is —

- A** too young to ride the train alone
- B** not someone who can be easily fooled
- C** not as sophisticated as she first appears





To a Daughter Leaving Home

This poem is a message from a mother to her daughter. Read the poem to find out how the mother feels about her daughter leaving home for the first time.

To a Daughter Leaving Home

by Linda Pastan



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When I taught you
at eight to ride
a bicycle, loping along
beside you
5 as you wobbled away
on two round wheels,
my own mouth rounding
in surprise when you pulled
ahead down the curved
10 path of the park,
I kept waiting
for the thud
of your crash as I
sprinted to catch up,
15 while you grew
smaller, more breakable
with distance,
pumping, pumping
for your life, screaming
20 with laughter,
the hair flapping
behind you like a
handkerchief waving
goodbye.

"To a Daughter Leaving Home," from THE IMPERFECT PARADISE by Linda Pastan. Copyright © 1988 by Linda Pastan. Used by permission of W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.

12 Which of the following is a theme found in this poem?

- F** Honor versus dishonor
- G** Dependence versus independence
- H** Optimism versus pessimism

13 What does the word loping mean in line 3?

- A** Crawling
- B** Waving
- C** Running

14 In line 19, the poet uses the word “screaming” to suggest that the daughter is —

- F** thrilled
- G** terrified
- H** hurt

15 What is the most likely reason the poet wrote this poem?

- A** To criticize the daughter for leaving home
- B** To persuade parents to be more careful
- C** To describe a mother's hopes and fears

16 In the photograph, the girl rides toward the viewer. By constructing the photograph in this way, what does the photographer allow the viewer to see?

- F** The conflict between the girl and her mother
- G** The type of bike the girl is riding
- H** The facial expressions of the girl and her mother





Ben Franklin

Big Name, Big Fame in France

This article is about Benjamin Franklin, the American scientist, inventor, and diplomat. He is known for the important role he played in helping the United States win the American Revolution and gain its freedom from Great Britain. Read this article to learn how Franklin persuaded the French government to help the Americans and about many of Franklin's ideas and inventions.

Ben Franklin

Big Name, Big Fame in France

- 1 If gossip magazines had been around in December 1776, one headline might have read "Benjamin Franklin's Mystery Mission." Franklin was one of America's founding fathers. He arrived in France in December of 1776 with a plan. No one knew why he had come, but there were many rumors. Some said he was in France to share his knowledge of science. Others thought he had come to give his grandsons a proper education. Many wondered whether his goal was to gain French support for the American Revolution. No one really knew, and Franklin's actions revealed very little.
- 2 Franklin's true purpose was to secure French support for the American Revolution. The American colonies declared their independence from Great Britain on July 4, 1776, but Americans lacked the money and the weapons they needed to gain independence. The Americans desperately needed French support for their cause. Asking for support was not an easy task. The French government needed to be convinced that the colonists could win a war with Great Britain. Franklin was thought to be the best person for the job because his word held weight in France, where he was famous and well respected.

Tamer of Lightning

- 3 Benjamin Franklin was known throughout Europe for his studies on electricity. His book *Experiments and Observations on Electricity* had caught the attention of European scientists after his most important discovery in 1752. Franklin became famous when he proved that lightning was a form of electricity. To test his theory, Franklin flew a metal-spiked kite during a thunderstorm. Electricity was conducted through a key attached to the kite string. This discovery led Franklin to invent the first lightning rod, a metal spike attached to the high point of a roof. The rod attracted lightning, which then traveled harmlessly along a wire to the ground and away from a house. Lightning rods have since helped prevent many house fires. Franklin earned the appreciation of people around the world for his invention and became known as the tamer of lightning. His work with lightning and electricity made him a giant in the world of science and a legendary figure in France.

17 What is paragraph 1 mainly about?

- A** The possibility of Franklin being in gossip magazines if he were alive today
 - B** The public's curiosity about Franklin traveling to France
 - C** How Franklin's interest in science was the subject of discussion
-

18 What do the words "his word held weight" tell the reader in paragraph 2?

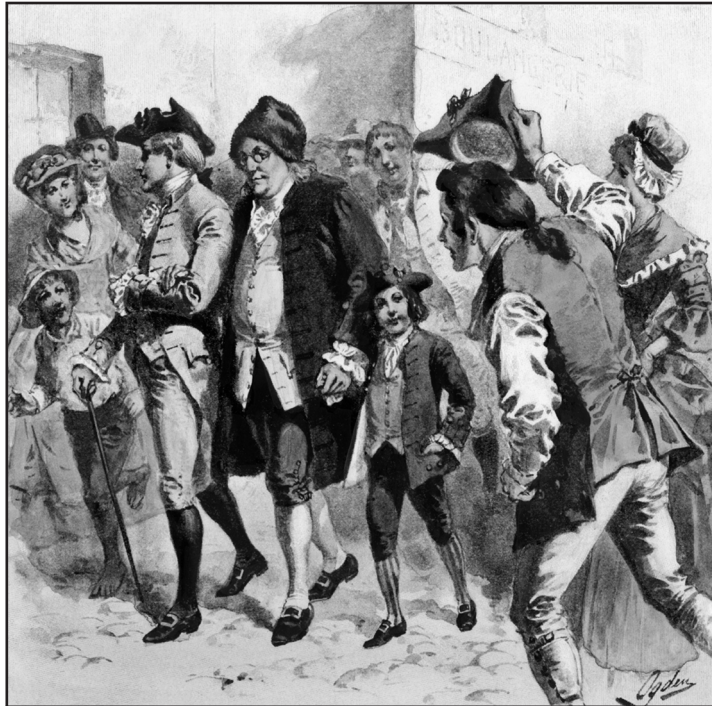
- F** Everyone did exactly what Franklin told them to do.
 - G** People thought that what Franklin said was important.
 - H** Franklin tended to speak about serious topics.
-

19 Franklin first established his reputation in Europe as a scientist with his —

- A** use of a special kite
- B** scientific speeches
- C** book on electricity

The Power of Celebrity

- 4 Franklin was an obvious choice to represent America's interests in France. His fame helped him gain an audience with France's upper classes, and his personality made him popular with the ordinary French people. Franklin was so kind and easy to talk to that friendly crowds followed him everywhere. One newspaper correspondent wrote, "The curiosity of the people to see him is so great that he may be said to be followed by a genteel mob."



Benjamin Franklin with his Grandsons in France
Representing the American Cause During the
Revolutionary War

© North Wind Picture Archives/Alamy

- 5 Fans began blocking the doorway of Franklin's home. Artists lined up, begging him to pose. Franklin's portrait soon appeared on fancy dishes, tea sets, and walking sticks. In a letter to his daughter, Franklin wrote that "my face is now almost as well known as that of the moon."
- 6 Franklin was aware of the importance of the image he projected to the French people. Most of them believed that Americans were hardworking country folk who lived in a great wilderness. Franklin knew that it would help his cause if he encouraged this idea, so he dressed and behaved differently from other ambassadors to France. While most of the French upper classes wore large, intricate wigs, Franklin wore a humble fur cap

over his bald head. Instead of the fancy clothing worn by the nobility in Paris, he wore simple clothes. With his round glasses, Franklin looked like a wise old man who might stroll through the woods in the morning deep in thought, conduct experiments in the afternoon, and write essays in the evening. This image was very appealing to the French people.

20 The illustration suggests that —

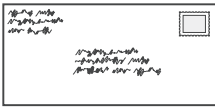
- F** Franklin had a good relationship with the people of France
- G** Franklin's grandsons were fearful of crowds
- H** the citizens of France were curious about Franklin's fur hat

A Job Well Done

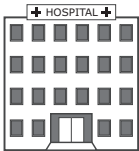
- 7 Franklin's fame attracted the attention of France's most powerful people. But it was his wit and humor that allowed him to form close relationships with them. He was often a guest at the French royal palace and was a frequent host of French politicians and nobility. In fact, politicians in America wondered why Franklin entertained so often. But Franklin knew that such "dinner-table diplomacy" was necessary. It helped him win the ear of France, and ultimately, its pocketbook.
- 8 Franklin's ability to tell America's story to people in power garnered French support for America. France supplied the American Revolution with money, weapons, soldiers, and even leadership. Without French support, America probably would not have won the war. And without Benjamin Franklin, America probably would not have won French support.

Famous Firsts from Benjamin Franklin

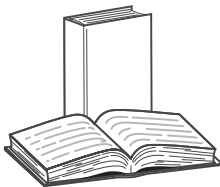
Benjamin Franklin created many systems that changed the way Americans lived and worked back then as well as now.



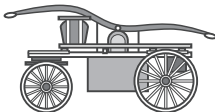
Post Office: In 1737 Franklin became the postmaster of Philadelphia. He instituted regular mail routes and a standard fee structure. Many of these systems are still in use by the postal service today.



Public Hospitals: In 1751 Franklin helped establish the Pennsylvania Hospital, the first public hospital in America. Before this, there was no public health care for the poor. The public hospital system that Americans know today is modeled after the Pennsylvania Hospital.



Public Library: In 1751 Franklin developed the idea of a library where members paid a fee and shared books with one another. In the early eighteenth century, books were available mainly to wealthy people, many of whom often had their own libraries. Franklin's idea served as a model for the public library system in place in the United States today.



Volunteer Fire Department: In 1752 Franklin organized the first volunteer fire department in Philadelphia. Its success led to other volunteer fire departments within Philadelphia and across America.



Fire Insurance: In 1752 Franklin was responsible for creating the first fire insurance company. Subscribers paid a fee for the assurance of having their property repaired or replaced if it was damaged in a fire. This same concept is in practice today.

- 21** What is the primary purpose of the chart about Benjamin Franklin?
- A** To help the reader understand how libraries became public institutions
 - B** To provide the reader with information about Franklin’s many innovations
 - C** To describe the first fire department and the need for fire insurance

Use the whole article “Ben Franklin—Big Name, Big Fame in France” on pages 26–30 to answer question 22.

22 How does the author emphasize Franklin’s importance in history?

- F** By describing his accomplishments and the traits that contributed to Franklin’s success
- G** By relating Franklin’s achievements in order of their importance
- H** By explaining the process Franklin used while designing and conducting his experiments



WRITING



Man's Best Friend

Alberto loves dogs. He did some research online and found examples of three dogs who have done amazing things: La China, a dog from Argentina; Trakr, a search-and-rescue dog; and Thelma, Chris Goard's terrier.

Alberto wrote this paper to tell about these three special dogs. Read Alberto's paper and think about the corrections he should make. Then answer the questions that follow.

Man's Best Friend

(1) What animal is called "man's best friend"? (2) Of course, everyone knows that dogs are given that title. (3) But why? (4) Is there something that makes these animals special to humans? (5) Some dogs may convince you that there is.

(6) La China is a perfect example. (7) She is an ordinary dog living in Argentina, but she did something remarkable a few years ago. (8) One day she found a baby that was just a few hours old. (9) The baby had been ditched outside in the cold. (10) La China kept the infant safe and warm in a den with her puppies. (11) Finally someone discovered the newborn baby. (12) La China was a hero.

(13) Trakr is another good example. (14) He was trained as a search-and-rescue dog. (15) It was after the terrorist attacks in New York City on September 11, 2001, when he was called on for a job to do. (16) He had to search through the fallen buildings for survivors. (17) Trakr worked hard and finally located the last person buried alive under all the debris.

(18) Finally there's Thelma. (19) She's a little terrier who devotes her life to caring for one man. (20) Thelma's owner, Chris Goard, is

deaf and uses a wheelchair to get around. (21) Thelma is more than a friend to Goard; she also functions as his ears. (22) With Thelma's help Goard is able to live a full life. (23) A British newspaper gave Thelma the title of Hero Dog 2009.

(24) The list of dog heroes goes on and on, but most of them will never be famous. (25) They are just everyday dogs living everyday lives.

23 Alberto would like to replace the word ***ditched*** in sentence 9. What is the best word for him to use?

- A** recovered
- B** abandoned
- C** overlooked

24 What revision, if any, is needed in sentence 10?

- F** La China kept the infant safe and the infant warm in a den with her puppies.
 - G** La China kept the infant safe and warm, the baby was in a den with her puppies.
 - H** No revision is needed.
-

25 What is the most effective revision to make in sentence 15?

- A** While it was after the terrorist attacks in New York City on September 11, 2001, he was called on for a job to do.
 - B** It was after the terrorist attacks in New York City on September 11, 2001, and he was called on. For a job to do.
 - C** After the terrorist attacks in New York City on September 11, 2001, he was called on to do a job.
-

26 Which of the following is a valid inference Alberto could make and then add to the end of the third paragraph (sentences 13–17)?

- F** German shepherds are known to make good search-and-rescue dogs.
- G** Trakr is surely the bravest and smartest dog in the world.
- H** Because of Trakr's efforts, the tragedy of September 11 claimed one less life.

27 Which of these sentences would provide the best support for sentence 21?

- A** She listens for sounds as common as a doorbell or as serious as a smoke alarm.
- B** Goard has a rare disorder that occurs only once in every 100,000 births.
- C** She is his ears, so she is more than a special friend.





Choices

The local school board has decided that school snack bars should offer only healthy foods. As a result, Lydia's school, Donnelly High School, announced that it would change the snack choices it offers in the cafeteria. Lydia thinks that there are more appropriate ways to encourage healthy eating habits.

Lydia wrote this paper to express her opinion. Read Lydia's first draft and think about how it should be revised. Then answer the questions that follow.

Choices

(1) Last week our local school board made a decision. (2) This decision will affect every student in our district. (3) The board decided that school snack bars should offer only healthy foods. (4) Teachers and parents were happy about this announcement. (5) They think that the board's decision will force students to eat healthier foods. (6) I don't agree. (7) Of course, I know that fruit juice is better for me than cola. (8) However, taking all the "bad" snacks out of the cafeteria won't help me—or anyone else—learn how to make smart decisions about what to eat. (9) In fact, the school board's decision might actually encourage poorer eating habits, especially among high school students.

(10) By the time we students have gotten to high school, most of us have learned about food groups and the importance of a healthy, fit body. (11) Now that we are teenagers, we need opportunities to apply what we have learned. (12) If we don't get a chance to select healthy snacks during the school day, what will we do when we're out of school? (13) Many of us will eat the foods that were forbidden at school. (14) All these foods are readily available outside Donnelly High School. (15) Controlling our options during the eight-hour school day is dumb.

(16) Furthermore, making independent decisions is an important part of growing up. (17) We students must be given opportunities to make our own choices and our mistakes we will learn from.

(18) Those who routinely make poor snack choices will probably suffer consequences. (19) Some will gain weight. (20) Others will have headaches or feel fatigued. (21) Still others will notice that they have less energy on the basketball court. (22) These kinds of consequences will help teens make better decisions in the future.

(23) If they want to promote healthy eating habits, I have a suggestion. (24) The snack bar should continue to offer both “good” and “bad” choices. (25) But the healthier choices, such as granola bars and fresh fruit, should cost less than the chips and candy bars. (26) High school students must be able to practice making responsible choices if we are going to become responsible adults.

28 Lydia wants to more clearly state her thesis at the end of the second paragraph (sentences 10–15). How should she rewrite sentence 15 to better explain her position?

- F** Controlling our options during the eight-hour school day isn't the smartest idea I've ever heard of.
- G** Controlling our options during the eight-hour school day isn't going to teach us anything about living in a healthy way.
- H** Controlling our options during the eight-hour school day is just plain ridiculous.

29 What is the most effective way to revise sentence 17?

- A** We students must be given opportunities to make our own choices we will learn from our mistakes.
- B** We students must be given opportunities to make our own choices and learn from our mistakes.
- C** We students must be given opportunities to make our own choices and mistakes that we will learn from.

30 The meaning of sentence 23 can be improved by changing **they** to —

- F** school-board members
- G** teens
- H** school snack bars

31 Lydia wants to give additional support to the suggestion she makes in sentence 25. Which sentence would best follow sentence 25 and provide a little more analysis of the idea in this sentence?

- A** Most high school students don't carry much cash with them.
- B** Pricing of items could vary from week to week, depending on availability at the local supermarket.
- C** This would encourage students to choose healthier options but still allow freedom of choice.





Save P.E.!

Some people have suggested that school districts could save money by cutting physical education, or P.E., classes. Clark does not think this is a good idea. He thinks that physical education classes give students more energy, better concentration, improved self-esteem, and regular exercise.

Clark wrote this paper to express his opinion. Read Clark's first draft and think about the corrections he needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.

Save P.E.!

(1) School districts around the country are looking for ways to spend less money. (2) Some people have suggested shortening or eliminatting physical education classes as a way to cut costs. (3) I do not think this is a good idea. (4) I think that American students need fit bodies as well as fit minds. (5) In fact, I believe that students should attend physical education classes five days a week.

(6) Physical education promotes good health. (7) A student who is healthy is more likely to have the energy to do well in school.

(8) Research has shown that physical activity helps blood flow to the brain. (9) This improve a person's ability to concentrate.

(10) Furthermore, a recent study showed that when people exercised regularly, they did better on memory tests. (11) Clearly, physical education can have an impact on a student's classroom performance.

(12) But there are other benefits, too.

32 What change should be made in sentence 2?

F Change *have suggested* to **has suggested**

G Insert a comma after *shortening*

H Change *eliminattng* to **eliminating**

33 What change should be made in sentence 9?

A Change *improve* to **improves**

B Change *person's* to **persons'**

C Change *concentrate* to **consentrate**

(13) Physical education can also build self-esteem for some students. (14) Those who struggle in the classroom may excel in the gym or on the field. (15) They might be good at volleyball, gymnastics, or track. (16) Take my friend Ty, for example. (17) He has a tough time in math and history, but he's one of the fastest and strongest boys in our grade. (18) P.E. class is the best part of his day it motivates him to work harder in school.

(19) Finally, physical education is important because it forces students to exercise. (20) Look at the average teenager, who spends most of his or her free time in front of a television, video game, or computer. (21) This teen doesn't play basketball or tennis at a public park; he or she lies on the couch and operates a remote control. (22) The only way that these kids get the physical activity you need is by going to regular physical education classes.

(23) I understand that public schools need to save money, but I don't believe that cutting physical education is the way to do it. (24) Schools are responsible for educating the whole student. (25) To do this, they have to provide both physical and mental challenges.

34 How should sentence 18 be corrected?

- F** P.E. class is the best part of his day. Motivating him to work harder in school.
- G** P.E. class is the best part of his day, and it motivates him. To work harder in school.
- H** P.E. class is the best part of his day, and it motivates him to work harder in school.

35 What change should be made in sentence 22?

- A** Change ***get*** to **got**
- B** Change ***you*** to **they**
- C** Change ***is*** to **are**





Beyond a Summer Job

Terrence got a summer job at an animal shelter. As hard as the work was, he eventually started to enjoy himself and wanted to help find homes for the abandoned dogs. Now Terrence has a personal mission and hopes that he can someday open his own rescue center to help other dogs that don't have homes.

Terrence wrote this paper to tell about his experience and how it shaped his future goals. Proofread Terrence's first draft and look for any mistakes he has made. Then answer the questions that follow.



Beyond a Summer Job

(1) I wrinkled my nose as I stepped into the back room of the animal shelter. (2) The smell was awful, but the nonstop barking was even worse. (3) Yaps and howls came from every corner of the room. (4) What a terrible place to spend three months! (5) I didn't want to be there any more than the dogs seemed to.

(6) Unfortunately, I hadn't had much choice in the matter. (7) Lyons County animal shelter had been the only place willing to hire a 14-year-old kid last summer.

(8) And so all summer long, at eight o'clock most mornings, I

showed up for work. (9) When dogs were brought in off the streets I helped get them inside. (10) Then I bathed and brushed them, hoping to make them more attractive to the people who visited the shelter. (11) I also had to scrub the floors. (12) I worked hard each day to give the place a cleaner appearance and smell.

36 What change should be made in sentence 7?

F Change *animal shelter* to **Animal Shelter**

G Change *had been* to **have been**

H Insert a comma after *willing*

37 What change should be made in sentence 9?

A Change *brought* to **brung**

B Insert a comma after *streets*

C Change *them* to **it**

(13) After a while I realized that the barking wasn't bothering me as much as it had at first. (14) It was starting to sound like abandoned animals telling there sad life stories. (15) As I listened to those stories and looked into the dogs' eyes, my heart began to melt. (16) I started getting attached to several of the dogs and wishing that I could take them home. (17) Soon my work at the animal shelter was more than just a job. (18) It was a personal mission. (19) I was determined to help those dogs find the love that they deserved.

38 What change should be made in sentence 14?

- F** Change ***It*** to **And**
- G** Change ***telling*** to **told**
- H** Change ***there*** to **their**

(20) Of course, finding homes for all those dogs was too big a job for one person. (21) With my boss's permission I contacted some local pet-supply stores. (22) I asked if I could bring a few dogs there on the weekends. (23) I introduced the dogs to customer's, and over the course of the summer, I found homes for 30 animals! (24) Because I was willing to make an effort, I was able to change those dogs' lives forever.

(25) Although the summer is over, my mission is far from complete. (26) Even though I'm only 15 years old, I now have a plan for my future. (27) I'm going to open a rescue center for unwanted animals. (28) I hope to find a loving home for each and every one.

39 What change should be made in sentence 23?

- A** Change *introduced* to **introdused**
- B** Change *customer's* to **customers**
- C** Change *course* to **coarse**

40 How should sentence 24 be corrected?

- F** Because I was willing to make an effort. I was able to change those dogs' lives forever.
- G** Because I was willing to make an effort, I was able to change those dogs' lives it was forever.
- H** Sentence 24 is correct as is.



WRITTEN COMPOSITION



LOOK at the photograph.



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WRITE a story about experiencing a big surprise.

Be sure to —

- write a focused story that is complete
- include an interesting plot and engaging characters
- choose your words carefully
- edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling

USE THIS PREWRITING PAGE TO
PLAN YOUR COMPOSITION.

MAKE SURE THAT YOU WRITE YOUR COMPOSITION ON
THE LINED PAGE IN THE ANSWER DOCUMENT.

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**STAAR Modified
English I
April 2014**