

Participation in Democracy  
Kailua High School  
Social Studies Requirement  
2023-2024  
First Name Last Name  
Period  
Date

INSTRUCTIONS: Write the class heading, skip one line, and then write two citations for “Why Americans can’t write.” After writing the last citation, skip a line and then answer the provided questions in complete sentences. After answering all questions, write out each foot-noted vocabulary word, its part of speech, its definition, and then write a sentence that uses the word correctly.

1. Why is writing “more important than ever”? (1)
2. Why have “writing deficiencies...become increasing apparent”? (1)
3. Identify “one reason so many Americans lack writing skills...” (2)
4. Write out the statistics of “2011” concerning the ability of “students in eighth and 12 grades” to write with proficiency. (2)
5. According to the author, most “writing assignments [are] of the ‘write about how you feel’ variety.” Why are such writing exercises deficient? (3)
6. What are “Common Core education standards”? (4)
7. In what way are Common core standards different than writing about how one feels? (4)
8. What are the advantages of “students put[ting] what they’ve read into their own words”? (5)
9. Explain what “the authors of the Common Core” overlooked. (6)
10. Identify the “assum[ptions] of the “standards” concerning “students in middle and high school”. (7)
11. Why do teachers “throw up their hands **when confronted with an English language arts standard saying their students should ‘use appropriate and varied transitions and syntax to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts’**”? (8)
12. According to the author, “before students can write a coherent five-paragraph essay,” what do students “need to learn”? (9)
13. Instead of “drill[ing] students on grammar rules,” what does the author propose? (10)

14. Identify the part of speech that “but’ and ‘because” are. (11)
15. Identify the part of speech that “although” and “despite” are. (11)
16. In what ways do conjunctions and subordinating conjunctions affect writing? (11)
17. Identify the building blocks of essays. (12)
18. What are the elements of “*extended* writing”? (14)
19. What do “...poorly constructed sentences...” create? (15)
20. Identify an easy method to “engage students in critical thinking”? 15
21. Write out the “contrasting ideas” in the following sentence: “That gives the teacher a manageable opportunity not only to correct writing mistakes, but also to uncover what students haven’t understood.” (16)
22. Identify the essence of “coherent essays.” (17)