

## Now You Try It!

Read the writing prompt and follow the steps to complete the assignment.

### SPEECH

- a formal talk given to an audience about the speaker's opinion on a subject
- has language that catches the listeners' attention

### Writing Prompt

Imagine your school is hosting a photo exhibit called "Unsung Heroes." The exhibit is about people working together to help others. Write a short speech to be given to introduce the exhibit to the community. You will include your opinion of what makes a person a hero. Use ideas from "The Great Race of Mercy" and at least three of the academic vocabulary words.

**considered • inclined • conventional • emphasis**

### 1. Plan It

Use the organizer to plan what you want to say. Include ideas from "The Great Race of Mercy." Think about how working as a team can be better than working alone.



**What is a hero?**

---

---

---

---

Write ideas about what it means to be a hero.

**How can people make a difference?**

---

---

---

---

Give examples of how people can make a difference.



## Now You Try It!

Read the writing prompt and follow the steps to complete the assignment.



- an online journal of a writer's experiences, observations, or opinions on a topic

### Writing Prompt

After reading the e-mails "What Makes a Hero?" suppose that you are helping to create a Web page about kid heroes. Write a blog entry that would appear on the Web page. Use ideas from the e-mails and at least three of the academic vocabulary words.

**considerable • inclination • unconventional**  
**• emphasize**

### 1. Plan It

Use the organizer to plan what you want to say. Include ideas from "What Makes a Hero?" Then circle the details that are the most convincing or interesting.



### Kid Heroes

**My feelings or opinions about kid heroes:**

  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  

**Details from the article that helped me form my opinion:**

## 2. Write It

Now use your organizer to write your blog entry. You can start by completing the writing frame below.

○ ○ ○

I feel that kid heroes are \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The reasons I feel this way are \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Check It and Fix It

After you have written your blog entry, check your work. Use the checklist to evaluate your writing. Then make any final changes needed. Write a clean copy of your blog entry on a separate sheet of paper.

**CHECKLIST**

Evaluate your writing. A score of “5” is excellent. A score of “1” means you need to revise your work.

- 1. Does the blog entry share a feeling or opinion about kid heroes?**  
1   2   3   4   5
- 2. Does the blog entry include information from “What Makes a Hero?” that supports the feelings or opinions?**  
1   2   3   4   5
- 3. Are at least three academic vocabulary words used?**  
1   2   3   4   5

**Academic Vocabulary • Word Relationships**

**Directions:** Read the passage. Then read each question. Circle the letter of the correct answer.

## Leonardo's Journals

Leonardo da Vinci pursued a considerable range of interests. He had so many interests and ideas that new ones distracted him from other projects. Some have observed that he possessed too many abilities. One lifetime contains too few hours for such a man. Leonardo was an unconventional thinker, different from the normal people of his time. Leonardo's journals have preserved many of his plans and ideas. He had an inclination to record plans for many inventions. This is how we learn of his great genius today.

- 1 Which of the following is a synonym of *considerable*?
  - A small
  - B colorful
  - C great
  - D unusual
  
- 2 Which of the following is a synonym of *inclination*?
  - A distraction
  - B concern
  - C slanted
  - D tendency
  
- 3 Which of the following is an antonym of *inclination*?
  - A position
  - B distraction
  - C dislike
  - D influence
  
- 4 Which of the following is an antonym of *considerable*?
  - A insignificant
  - B emphasized
  - C unworthy
  - D disgusting
  
- 5 Which of the following is a synonym of *unconventional*?
  - A nontraditional
  - B customary
  - C typical
  - D frequent

## Academic Vocabulary • Word Relationships

### Word Bank

emphasis	emphasizes	conventional	considerably
unconventional	convention	inclination	emphasizing
consideration	inclined	considered	disinclined

**Directions:** Choose the word from the word bank that best completes each sentence. Some words may be used more than once or not at all.

1. His message had a strong \_\_\_\_\_: He needed the serum fast—within days, not weeks.
2. The Board of Health was strongly \_\_\_\_\_ to use a dogsled relay and voted for it unanimously.
3. Our teacher wants us to think beyond \_\_\_\_\_ heroes—brave soldiers, great athletes, or fictional superheroes.
4. But other \_\_\_\_\_ heroes include those who fight and conquer suffering over a long period of time.
5. As he \_\_\_\_\_ in his book, heroes come in all shapes and sizes.
6. They inspired me to do some research of my own, with an \_\_\_\_\_, or special focus, on kids who have fought illness or injury for a long time.
7. It may be that the \_\_\_\_\_ to rescue someone in need is actually an instinct rather than a choice.
8. Although we are naturally \_\_\_\_\_ to avoid dangerous situations, in some cases, a person, whether old or young, may be driven to act.
9. Unlike images of the Greek heroes, these statues are \_\_\_\_\_ realistic.
10. Their \_\_\_\_\_ was on the portrayal of the gladiators' courage and athletic strength.
11. They also preferred to depict the general dressed in the \_\_\_\_\_, or traditional, military uniform of the era.
12. One \_\_\_\_\_ in Ancient Rome was to reward victorious fighters with crowns and silver platters heaped with prize money.

**Academic Vocabulary • Word Relationships**

**Directions:** Read the passage. Then read each question. Circle the letter of the correct answer.

## Leonardo's Journals

Leonardo da Vinci pursued a considerable range of interests. He had so many interests and ideas that new ones distracted him from other projects. Some have observed that he possessed too many abilities. One lifetime contains too few hours for such a man. Leonardo was an unconventional thinker, different from the normal people of his time. Leonardo's journals have preserved many of his plans and ideas. He had an inclination to record plans for many inventions. This is how we learn of his great genius today.

1 Which of the following is a synonym of *considerable*?

- A small
- B colorful
- C great
- D unusual

2 Which of the following is a synonym of *inclination*?

- A distraction
- B concern
- C slanted
- D tendency

3 Which of the following is an antonym of *inclination*?

- A position
- B distraction
- C dislike
- D influence

4 Which of the following is an antonym of *considerable*?

- A insignificant
- B emphasized
- C unworthy
- D disgusting

5 Which of the following is a synonym of *unconventional*?

- A nontraditional
- B customary
- C typical
- D frequent

## Academic Vocabulary • Word Relationships

### Word Bank

<b>emphasis</b>	<b>emphasizes</b>	<b>conventional</b>	<b>considerably</b>
<b>unconventional</b>	<b>convention</b>	<b>inclination</b>	<b>emphasizing</b>
<b>consideration</b>	<b>inclined</b>	<b>considered</b>	<b>disinclined</b>

**Directions:** Choose the word from the word bank that best completes each sentence. Some words may be used more than once or not at all.

- His message had a strong **emphasis**: He needed the serum fast—within days, not weeks.
- The Board of Health was strongly **inclined** to use a dogsled relay and voted for it unanimously.
- Our teacher wants us to think beyond **conventional** heroes—brave soldiers, great athletes, or fictional superheroes.
- But other **unconventional** heroes include those who fight and conquer suffering over a long period of time.
- As he **emphasizes** in his book, heroes come in all shapes and sizes.
- They inspired me to do some research of my own, with an **emphasis**, or special focus, on kids who have fought illness or injury for a long time.
- It may be that the **inclination** to rescue someone in need is actually an instinct rather than a choice.
- Although we are naturally **inclined** to avoid dangerous situations, in some cases, a person, whether old or young, may be driven to act.
- Unlike images of the Greek heroes, these statues are **considerably** realistic.
- Their **emphasis** was on the portrayal of the gladiators' courage and athletic strength.
- They also preferred to depict the general dressed in the **conventional**, or traditional, military uniform of the era.
- One **convention** in Ancient Rome was to reward victorious fighters with crowns and silver platters heaped with prize money.

## Now You Try It!

Read the writing prompt and follow the steps to complete the assignment.

### OPINION LETTER

- a message written to explain an opinion about a topic

#### Writing Prompt

A school in your community is considering having all students take an IQ test. Write a letter to the school principal expressing whether you think this is a good idea. Use ideas from the interview “The IQ Question” and at least three of the academic vocabulary words.

**judge • limited • develop • promote**

### 1. Plan It

Use the organizer to plan what you want to say. Think about the ideas from “The IQ Question.” Is it a good idea or a bad idea to have all students take an IQ test?



### Letter to the Principal

#### My Opinion

Your opinion is what you think about the issue.

#### My Reasons

Your reasons explain your opinion.



## Now You Try It!

Read the writing prompt and follow the steps to complete the assignment.

### Writing Prompt

Do you consider yourself a right-brained or a left-brained person? A right-brained person is creative and spontaneous. A left-brained person is logical and cautious. Explain which of these choices best describes you. Use ideas from “Brain Battle” and at least three of the academic vocabulary words.

**judgment • unlimited • development • promoting**

### JOURNAL

- a person’s record of daily activities and thoughts

### 1. Plan It

Use the organizer to plan what you want to say. Think about the ideas from “Brain Battle.” Then write your reasons for why you are right-brained or left-brained.



### Journal Entry

#### My Behavior

Explain whether you are a right-brained or a left-brained person.

#### Why I Am That Way

Explain why you behave this way.



## Academic Vocabulary • Compare and Contrast

- When you **compare and contrast**, you tell how two or more things are alike and how they are different.
- Sometimes words such as *like*, *as*, *however*, and *unlike* signal comparisons or contrasts.

**Directions:** Read the following passage. Then complete the chart below.

**S**chools in China and the United States are alike and different. In both countries, the school year is about 40 weeks long. However, in China, students attend six days a week instead of five. Chinese elementary schools teach the same core subjects as U.S. schools, but politics, foreign language, and manual labor are taught too. In the United States, about the same amount of time is spent on English as on other subjects. However, in China,

nearly 40 percent of class time is spent on Chinese because it is so difficult. This means Chinese students have a limited amount of time for other subjects. Unlike U.S. students, Chinese students must pass exams to be promoted to junior high school (called junior middle school) or high school (called senior middle school). Finally, in the United States all children attend junior high school, but in China less than half of all children attend.

	<b>United States</b>	<b>China</b>
<b>Length of school year</b>	40 weeks	40 weeks
<b>Length of school week</b>	Five days	Six days
<b>Elementary school subjects</b>	1.	
<b>Time spent on language</b>	2.	
<b>Entrance exams</b>	3.	
<b>Junior high attendance</b>	4.	
<b>Names of schools</b>	5.	

## Academic Vocabulary • Word Relationships

### Word Bank

develop  
limits  
limited

promote  
judge  
judgment

developed  
promoting  
unlimited

limitation  
promotion  
development

**Directions:** Choose the word from the word bank that best completes each sentence. Some words may be used more than once or not at all.

1. Keep in mind that not all brains \_\_\_\_\_, or grow, at the same rate.
2. He also identified \_\_\_\_\_ abilities in some children who could not complete the tasks at their age level.
3. People who \_\_\_\_\_ testing say that, when used properly, IQ tests provide a way to identify students who might benefit from special programs.
4. The results were being used to \_\_\_\_\_ people without considering other factors, such as their cultural background or life experiences.
5. Others, not made every day, require more careful \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Because some areas of teen brains are not yet fully \_\_\_\_\_, teens do not make decisions in the same way as adults do.
7. There is one key to \_\_\_\_\_ good development of all parts of your brain: sleep.
8. There may be times when you feel that you are facing \_\_\_\_\_ choices—so many that you just can't make a decision.
9. If parts of a person's brain are destroyed, the result can be the \_\_\_\_\_ of brain functions.
10. Many experts say that mental exercise also helps \_\_\_\_\_ good brain health.
11. Now when I think about watching TV or reviewing my notes, my better \_\_\_\_\_ tells me that reviewing my notes will help my brain to grow smarter.
12. However, even \_\_\_\_\_, or mature, brain cells can also lose connections.

## Academic Vocabulary • Compare and Contrast

- When you **compare and contrast**, you tell how two or more things are alike and how they are different.
- Sometimes words such as *like*, *as*, *however*, and *unlike* signal comparisons or contrasts.

**Directions:** Read the following passage. Then complete the chart below.

**S**chools in China and the United States are alike and different. In both countries, the school year is about 40 weeks long. However, in China, students attend six days a week instead of five. Chinese elementary schools teach the same core subjects as U.S. schools, but politics, foreign language, and manual labor are taught too. In the United States, about the same amount of time is spent on English as on other subjects. However, in China,

nearly 40 percent of class time is spent on Chinese because it is so difficult. This means Chinese students have a limited amount of time for other subjects. Unlike U.S. students, Chinese students must pass exams to be promoted to junior high school (called junior middle school) or high school (called senior middle school). Finally, in the United States all children attend junior high school, but in China less than half of all children attend.

	<b>United States</b>	<b>China</b>
<b>Length of school year</b>	40 weeks	40 weeks
<b>Length of school week</b>	Five days	Six days
<b>Elementary school subjects</b>	<b>1. core subjects</b>	<b>core subjects plus others</b>
<b>Time spent on language</b>	<b>2. same amount of time as on other subjects</b>	<b>40 percent of class time</b>
<b>Entrance exams</b>	<b>3. no entrance exams</b>	<b>entrance exams for junior high and high school</b>
<b>Junior high attendance</b>	<b>4. All children attend.</b>	<b>Less than half attend.</b>
<b>Names of schools</b>	<b>5. junior high school, high school</b>	<b>junior middle school, senior middle school</b>

## Academic Vocabulary • Word Relationships

### Word Bank

develop  
limits  
limited

promote  
judge  
judgment

developed  
promoting  
unlimited

limitation  
promotion  
development

**Directions:** Choose the word from the word bank that best completes each sentence. Some words may be used more than once or not at all.

1. Keep in mind that not all brains develop, or grow, at the same rate.
2. He also identified limited abilities in some children who could not complete the tasks at their age level.
3. People who promote testing say that, when used properly, IQ tests provide a way to identify students who might benefit from special programs.
4. The results were being used to judge people without considering other factors, such as their cultural background or life experiences.
5. Others, not made every day, require more careful judgment.
6. Because some areas of teen brains are not yet fully developed, teens do not make decisions in the same way as adults do.
7. There is one key to promoting good development of all parts of your brain: sleep.
8. There may be times when you feel that you are facing unlimited choices—so many that you just can't make a decision.
9. If parts of a person's brain are destroyed, the result can be the limitation of brain functions.
10. Many experts say that mental exercise also helps promote good brain health.
11. Now when I think about watching TV or reviewing my notes, my better judgment tells me that reviewing my notes will help my brain to grow smarter.
12. However, even developed, or mature, brain cells can also lose connections.