

Now You Try It!

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

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

SPEECH

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

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 use your organizer to write your speech. Keep your language positive and encouraging as you introduce the exhibit. Use ideas and examples from “The Great Race of Mercy.”

Unsung Heroes

This exhibit shows that people can do the most good by

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no text or other markings on the paper.

3. Check It and Fix It

After you have written your speech, check your work. Use the checklist to evaluate your writing. Then make any final changes needed. Write a clean copy of your speech 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 speech state the opinion clearly?**

1 2 3 4 5

- 2. Is there information from “The Great Race of Mercy” that supports the opinion?**

1 2 3 4 5

3. Are at least three academic vocabulary words used?

1 2 3 4 5

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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**

BLOG

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

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.

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- 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.

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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

OPINION LETTER

- a message written to explain an opinion about a topic

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.

2

Now You Try It!

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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.

2

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.

Schools 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.

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

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

Academic Vocabulary • Word Relationships

Word Bank			
develop	promote	developed	limitation
limits	judge	promoting	promotion
limited	judgment	unlimited	development

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- He also identified **limited** abilities in some children who could not complete the tasks at their age level.
- People who **promote** testing say that, when used properly, IQ tests provide a way to identify students who might benefit from special programs.
- The results were being used to **judge** people without considering other factors, such as their cultural background or life experiences.
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- There is one key to **promoting** good development of all parts of your brain: sleep.
- There may be times when you feel that you are facing **unlimited** choices—so many that you just can't make a decision.
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