



GRADE 4
Writing

April 2019

RELEASED

WRITING

WRITTEN COMPOSITION

WRITTEN COMPOSITION: Expository

READ the information in the box below.

Thomas Edison is famous for inventing many things, including the lightbulb.

THINK about inventions that you believe are useful.

WRITE about one invention that is important in your life. Tell what the invention is and explain what makes it important.

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.

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PLAN YOUR COMPOSITION.

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THE LINED PAGE IN THE ANSWER DOCUMENT.

REVISING

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Darla’s teacher asked her to research and write about a young person who has made a difference in the world. Darla read about an inspiring young boy and wrote this paper to share what she learned. Read Darla’s paper and look for revisions she needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.



Mo's Bows Handmade Bowties Tramica Morris

Mo's Bows

(1) "I like being different," says Moziyah Bridges, a boy from Memphis, Tennessee. (2) "If all the candies are red, I want to be the green one." (3) Moziyah goes by the nickname "Mo," and he is a little different from most people his age. (4) He loves to wear fancy clothes like bow ties and jackets, even when he is playing outside. (5) Mo is also special because he started his own business making bow ties!

(6) In 2011, Mo wanted to buy a bow tie with exciting colors or patterns. (7) He didn't see any that he liked. (8) He talked with his grandmother. (9) She had been sewing for more than 50 years and had some old, unused fabrics. (10) She taught Mo, who was only nine years old at the time, how to make a bow tie on her sewing machine.

(11) When Mo sewed his first tie, it didn't turn out so well. (12) He says it looked like a tie that a clown would wear. (13) He kept trying to make better ones, though, and pretty soon, everyone started to tell him how great his bow ties looked. (14) He gave some away as gifts, and more and more people learned about them. (15) Mo was selling his ties as part of his new company, Mo's Bows.

(16) He started selling his ties on a shopping website. (17) Then some small stores in Tennessee and several other states began to sell his ties. (18) He appeared on the television show "Shark Tank," which helps people with business ideas to grow their companies. (19) In 2014, the Tennessee State Museum even put some of Mo's bow ties on display.

(20) "Designing a colorful bow tie is just part of my vision to make the world a fun and happier place," says Mo. (21) The young businessman makes ties in fun colors. (22) His ties often have stripes, polka dots, or sports-team designs on them. (23) Mo now makes long ties for boys and wants to begin making bows for girls' hair. (24) Each item that Mo creates helps his business continue to grow.

(25) Since Mo is still in school, he needs help with Mo's Bows. (26) He has some employees who do most of the sewing. (27) Surprisingly, Mo does not keep all of the money he earns. (28) He has designed a special tie called the *Go Mo! Scholarship Bow Tie*. (29) This tie is sold to help other kids.

(30) Mo's mother is very proud of her son. (31) She encourages them to do what they love. (32) "You don't have to wait until you're older," she says. (33) "If you have a dream and you have a passion, we say go for it." (34) Mo certainly did!

Third party trademark Shark Tank® was used in these testing materials.

1 Which is the best way to combine sentences 7 and 8?

- A** He didn't see any that he liked because he talked with his grandmother.
 - B** He didn't see any that he liked, even though he talked with his grandmother.
 - C** He didn't see any that he liked, so he talked with his grandmother.
 - D** He didn't see any that he liked when he talked with his grandmother.
-

2 Which transition is best to add to the beginning of sentence 15?

- F** However
- G** Therefore
- H** After all
- J** Soon

3 Darla needs to add a topic sentence for the fourth paragraph (sentences 16–19). Which sentence should be added just before sentence 16 as the topic sentence for this paragraph?

- A From there, Mo’s Bows became very popular.
 - B Eventually, Mo needed help with his business.
 - C Mo was excited about starting the company.
 - D Mo sold some bows to a few people.
-

4 Which change can Darla make to improve the clarity of sentence 31?

- F Change ***them*** to **young people**
- G Change ***what*** to **things**
- H Change ***they*** to **you**
- J No revision is needed in this sentence.

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Xavier wrote a paper about his experience at LEGO KidsFest. Read Xavier's paper and look for any revisions he needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.

My Visit to LEGO KidsFest

(1) I think LEGO bricks are the best toys ever. (2) I just had one of the best experiences of my life.

(3) LEGO KidsFest is a huge three-day event that travels to different cities across the nation. (4) Families have the chance to try fun activities and admire detailed models all created from LEGO bricks.

(5) LEGO bricks were invented in 1949. (6) My family went to the LEGO KidsFest when it came to Austin. (7) I had no idea what to expect when my parents said we'd be going. (8) I have always liked LEGO bricks, but I didn't realize how awesome they could be.

(9) LEGO KidsFest had so many exciting activities for visitors to do. (10) There were areas where we could build cars out of LEGO bricks. (11) We could even race our cars against other LEGO cars. (12) In addition, we got to build LEGO robots in another play area. (13) There was also a pile with over a trillion LEGO bricks for us to play in. (14) That's a lot of bricks!

(15) The LEGO Model Gallery was filled with really neat LEGO models. (16) Some of the



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models were very small, but some of them were life-sized. (17) The LEGO KidsFest had a LEGO model of Spider-Man. (18) There were LEGO characters from *Toy Story*, *Cars*, and *Star Wars*. (19) A giant eight-foot-tall statue of the Incredible Hulk really impressed me. (20) It took 80,000 LEGO bricks to build it.

(21) The models inspired me to practice my skills at the Construction Zones and Creation Nation. (22) In these areas kids could use LEGO bricks to build anything they wanted. (23) People called “master builders” walked around and helped visitors with their LEGO creations. (24) There was a huge map of the United States in the Creation Nation area. (25) It was the size of a basketball court. (26) Visitors were able to build a LEGO brick model and add the LEGO brick model they built to any state on the map. (27) I made a bluebonnet out of LEGO bricks and put it on Texas.

(28) My favorite part of LEGO KidsFest was the Master Builder Academy. (29) One master builder taught us LEGO building skills. (30) We learned that there are many steps needed to build the huge LEGO models. (31) The master builder showed us how professional LEGO builders create the models in sections. (32) After they have finished, the builders connect all of the sections to make one big model. (33) The master builder said that he has the best job in the world.

(34) I was super tired by the end of the day, but I was thrilled that my family went to LEGO KidsFest. (35) It was fun for our whole family. (36) I saw many awesome LEGO creations, and I got to build some myself. (37) I can’t wait for LEGO KidsFest to come back to Texas.

Third party trademarks LEGO®, Incredible Hulk® and Spider-Man® were used in these testing materials.

- 5** Xavier would like to replace sentence 2 with a sentence that will improve the focus of his paper. Which sentence should he use?
- A** LEGO bricks are a great toy because building with them teaches children important skills.
 - B** Playing with LEGO bricks is a hobby families can really enjoy together.
 - C** I was surprised that I had never heard of the LEGO KidsFest.
 - D** Last week I had a great day with my family and learned about one of my favorite toys at LEGO KidsFest.
-

- 6** Xavier has included an extraneous sentence in the second paragraph (sentences 3–8). Which sentence should be deleted from this paragraph?
- F** Sentence 4
 - G** Sentence 5
 - H** Sentence 6
 - J** Sentence 7

- 7** What is the most effective revision to make in sentence 26?
- A** Visitors were able to build a LEGO brick model and add it to any state on the map.
 - B** Visitors were able to build a LEGO brick model to any state on the map they could add what they built.
 - C** Visitors were able to build a LEGO brick model, then they were able to add that LEGO model to any state on the map.
 - D** Visitors were able to build a LEGO brick model, then visitors could add the LEGO brick model to any state on the map.
-

- 8** Xavier would like to add a sentence to bring his paper to a more effective conclusion. Which sentence should he add after sentence 37 to help achieve this goal?
- F** The best part of the day was seeing the LEGO models.
 - G** Next Saturday, my family and I are going to the San Antonio River Walk.
 - H** There are many fun things to do in Texas.
 - J** Until then, I plan to keep practicing my new master builder skills.

EDITING

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Jason's teacher asked students to research and write about unusual uses for trees. Read Jason's rough draft and look for corrections he needs to make. When you are finished reading, answer the questions that follow.



The Frio River Treetop
Near Leakey, Texas

Tree House Tourist

(1) Imagine waking up among the treetops of a forest. (2) Your bed is over 70 feet off the ground. (3) Leaves brush against your windows and the chirps of birds echo through your room.

(4) Many people love tree houses. (5) Some people like them so much that we created tree house hotels for guests. (6) These unusual places are made to help visitors connect with nature.

(7) Surprisingly, these tree house hotels can be found in many environments. (8) Tropical rain forests, thickly wilderness areas, or trees along an island shore are just a few places they are located. (9) Each tree house hotel fits right in with the natural surroundings of the environment.

(10) Part of the fun of visiting a tree house hotel is arriving there. (11) A guest cannot just drive to the base of most tree house hotels and climb up. (12) A journey through nature is usually needed. (13) For example, a person in a rain forest will likely need to walk up wobbly narrow bridges and use ropes for support. (14) But the trip is worth it. (15) A person can see the jungle from a totally different view. (16) Spending the night in the rain forest is a rare and wonderful experience.

(17) Not all tree houses look alike. (18) In Sweden there is a tree house hotel that is shaped like a bird's nest. (19) The design helps the tree house blend in with its surroundings. (20) In Mexico a tree house is set over the shoreline coast. (21) It is perfect for someone who likes the beach.

(22) The Frio River Treetop is closer to home it is located near Leakey, Texas. (23) Two tree houses are built into an old cypress tree. (24) They are 40 feet above the Frio River, and together they can hold up to 20 people. (25) The nearby area has swimming, fishing, canoeing, and hiking. (26) This makes it a great spot for someone who is looking for a more active setting.

(27) Someday you may want to visit one of these tree house hotels. (28) You may prefer just to climb in a traditional backyard tree house. (29) Either way, tree houses provide a great way to enjoy nature.

9 What change should be made in sentence 3?

- A Change **Leaves** to **Leafes**
 - B Change **brush** to **brushes**
 - C Insert a comma after **windows**
 - D Change **through** to **threw**
-

10 What change, if any, needs to be made in sentence 5?

- F Change **like** to **likes**
 - G Change **we** to **they**
 - H Change **created** to **creating**
 - J No change needs to be made.
-

11 What change should be made in sentence 8?

- A Change **rain forests** to **rain forest's**
- B Change **thickly** to **thick**
- C Delete the comma after **areas**
- D Insert a comma after **shore**

12 What change should be made in sentence 13?

- F** Change *need* to **needs**
 - G** Change *walks* to **walk**
 - H** Change *use* to **using**
 - J** No change is needed.
-

13 What change should be made to sentence 18?

- A** Change *their* to **there**
 - B** Insert a comma after *hotel*
 - C** Change *shaped* to **shape**
 - D** Change *bird's* to **birds**
-

14 What is the correct way to write sentence 22?

- F** The Frio River Treetop is closer. To home, it is located near Leakey, Texas.
- G** The Frio River Treetop is closer to home. It is located near Leakey, Texas.
- H** The Frio River Treetop is closer to home as a result it is located, near Leakey, Texas.
- J** No change is needed.

15 What change, if any, should be made to sentence 26?

- A Change ***makes*** to **make**
 - B Change ***greatest*** to **great**
 - C Insert a comma after ***spot***
 - D No change needs to be made in this sentence.
-

16 What change is needed in sentence 28?

- F Change ***prefer*** to **prefers**
 - G Change ***climb*** to **climbing**
 - H Change ***traditionul*** to **traditional**
 - J No change needs to be made.
-

17 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 29?

- A Change ***provide*** to **providing**
- B Change ***a*** to **an**
- C Change ***enjoy*** to **injoy**
- D No change is needed in this sentence.

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Maria wrote this paper about an animal with unusual behavior. Read Maria's paper and look for any corrections she should make. Then answer the questions that follow.



Underwater Games

(1) Dolphins are smart animals, but they are also curious and playful. (2) One of the most surprising facts about dolphins is how much they enjoy playing. (3) Dolphins can be seen jumping above the surface of the water and landing on their backs, bellies, or sides just for fun. (4) Dolphins even find ways to entertain themselves under the water. (5) Since they do not have objects to play with, these creative animals make their own toys out of air!

(6) Unlike fish, dolphins are mammals, that breathe air. (7) They can stay under the water for up to 15 minutes with one breath. (8) Dolphins can control when they exhale. (9) The air comes out through their blowholes and makes bubbles. (10) One kind of air bubble is shaped like a circle and called a bubble ring it happens to be the perfect sea toy.

(11) Many Scientists have filmed and photographed dolphins playing with bubble rings. (12) Sometimes it looks like dolphins use the bubble rings as targets. (13) They will hit the bubbles with their long noses or spin around and slap the bubbles with their tails. (14) Dolphins also try to bite the bubbles. (15) In addition, dolphins use bubble rings to create more of a challenge. (16) These playful mammals will make a big bubble ring and try to swim through it. (17) They have been seen trying to catch a bubble ring or move it around without braking it. (18) Sometimes they can join two or three bubble rings together. (19) It is a fun game for the dolphins!

(20) Some experts were thinking that dolphins also use bubble rings to help them hunt for food. (21) Dolphins swim beneath the fish and send up bubbles. (22) The bubbles causes the fish to move toward the surface of the water and scatter. (23) Then the dolphins swim in and grab a tasty snack.

(24) It is amazing how dolphins play with bubble rings. (25) It does not matter if dolphins use bubble rings to help them hunt for food or use them just for fun. (26) What matters is that dolphins have fun playing with all the bubbles they make.

18 What change, if any, needs to be made in sentence 4?

- F** Change *find* to **found**
 - G** Change *entertain* to **entertaining**
 - H** Change *themselves* to **themselves**
 - J** No change should be made in sentence 4.
-

19 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 6?

- A** Change *are* to **were**
 - B** Delete the comma after *mammals*
 - C** Change *that* to **they**
 - D** No change should be made in sentence 6.
-

20 What is the correct way to write sentence 10?

- F** One kind of an air bubble is shaped like a circle and called a bubble ring.
Happening to be the perfect sea toy.
- G** One kind of air bubble is shaped like a circle, and called a bubble ring. Then it happens to be the perfect sea toy.
- H** One kind of air bubble is shaped like a circle, called a bubble ring it happens to be the perfect sea toy.
- J** One kind of air bubble is shaped like a circle. It is called a bubble ring, and it happens to be the perfect sea toy.

21 How should sentence 11 be changed?

- A Change **Scientists** to **scientists**
 - B Insert a comma after **filmed**
 - C Change **playing** to **play**
 - D Change **rings** to **ring**
-

22 What change, if any, needs to be made in sentence 17?

- F Change **catch** to **caught**
 - G Insert a comma after **ring**
 - H Change **braking** to **breaking**
 - J No change should be made in sentence 17.
-

23 What change should be made in sentence 20?

- A Change **experts** to **Experts**
- B Change **were thinking** to **think**
- C Change **help** to **helps**
- D Change **hunt** to **hunting**

24 What change should be made in sentence 22?

- F** Change *causes* to **cause**
- G** Change *surface* to **surfase**
- H** Insert a comma after *water*
- J** Change *scatter* to **scater**



**STAAR
GRADE 4
Writing
April 2019**



Item Number	Reporting Category	Readiness or Supporting	Content Student Expectation	Correct Answer
Prompt	1	Readiness	4.18(A)	*
1	2	Readiness	4.15(C)	C
2	2	Readiness	4.15(C)	J
3	2	Readiness	4.15(C)	A
4	2	Readiness	4.15(C)	F
5	2	Readiness	4.15(C)	D
6	2	Readiness	4.15(C)	G
7	2	Readiness	4.15(C)	A
8	2	Readiness	4.15(C)	J
9	3	Supporting	4.21(C)	C
10	3	Readiness	4.15(D)	G
11	3	Supporting	4.20(A)	B
12	3	Supporting	4.20(A)	G
13	3	Supporting	4.22(C)	A
14	3	Readiness	4.20(B)	G
15	3	Supporting	4.20(A)	B
16	3	Readiness	4.15(D)	H
17	3	Readiness	4.15(D)	D
18	3	Supporting	4.22(A)	H
19	3	Readiness	4.15(D)	B
20	3	Readiness	4.20(B)	J
21	3	Readiness	4.15(D)	A
22	3	Supporting	4.22(C)	H
23	3	Supporting	4.20(A)	B
24	3	Supporting	4.20(C)	F

*A scoring guide is used to determine the score for the written composition.