



CONTENTS

Introduction	xiii
The Assignment: Introduction to the Instructor	xiii
PROLOGUE: The First Day: Why Am I Writing This Essay?	XXI
Begin Writing	XXI
What is Language? Silence, Language, Identity	XXII
What Is Language?	XXIII
What Is Grammar?	XXIV

PART 01: The Origins of Language I: The Cave at Lascaux **1**

CHAPTER 1: The Art of Language Language & Identity Parts of Speech	3
PARTS OF SPEECH I: NOUNS	4
Exercise on Nouns	4
PARTS OF SPEECH II: Verbs	4
Exercise on Verbs	5
PARTS OF SPEECH III: PRONOUNS	5
Pronoun Reference	6
Exercise on Pronouns	7
PARTS OF SPEECH IV: Adjectives	7
Exercise on Adjectives	8
PARTS OF SPEECH V: Adverbs	8
Exercise on Adverbs	10
Exercises for Chapter 01	12





vi THE ASSIGNMENT: *Why Am I Writing This Essay?*

CHAPTER 2: The Act of Reading | Noun : Verb : Image 21

Selected Reading: N. Scott Momaday, “The Way to Rainy Mountain”	21
What is an Image?	23
Exercises for Chapter 02	26

Chapter 3: The Act of Writing | What’s the Point? | All About Thesis 31

What is a Thesis?	31
What Makes a Good Thesis?	32
Exercises for Chapter 03	36

PART 02: The Origins of Language II: Native American Myths 39

CHAPTER 4: The Art of Language | What Language Can Do | Parts of Speech (continued) 41

PARTS OF SPEECH VI: Articles	41
Exercise on Adjectives	46
PARTS OF SPEECH VII: Conjunctions	46
Exercise on Conjunctions	47
PARTS OF SPEECH VIII: Interjections	47
Exercise on Interjections	48
PARTS OF SPEECH IX: Prepositions	48
Exercise on Prepositions	53
Exercises for Chapter 04	55

CHAPTER 5: The Act of Reading | Image is Evidence 65

Selected Reading: Jack London, “The Story of an Eyewitness: The San Francisco Earthquake”	65
Image is Evidence	66
Evidence	66
Exercises for Chapter 05	69





Chapter 6: The Act of Writing Develop It!	75
Parts of an Essay: Steps for Developing Your Essay	75
Step 1: Present Your Thesis	76
Step 2: Present Examples as Evidence that Prove Your Thesis	76
Step 3: Discuss the Evidence	76
Step 4: Discuss How the Evidence Proves Your Thesis	77
Step 5: Move on to Further Develop Your Evidence or Present New Evidence	77
Exercises for Chapter 06	81

PART 03: The Origins of Language III: Greek Myth **85**

Chapter 7: The Art of Language Parts of a Sentence	87
Simple Subject	88
Exercises on Simple Subject	89
Simple Predicate	89
Exercises on Simple Predicate	91
A Complete Thought	92
What is a Sentence Fragment	92
Independent Clause	93
Exercises on Independent Clauses	94
One Sentence = One Thought	94
Exercises for Chapter 07	97



Chapter 8: The Act of Reading A Community of Writers	105
Selected Reading: Diane Ackerman, “Modern Love”	105
The Dictionary	107
Exercises for Chapter 08	109

Chapter 9: The Act of Writing Develop It Paragraph Unity	115
Steps for Developing an Essay	116
Step 1: Present Your Thesis	116
Step 2: Present Examples as Evidence that Prove Your Thesis	116
Step 3: Discuss the Example/Evidence	117
Step 4: Discuss How the Evidence Proves Your Thesis	118





viii THE ASSIGNMENT: *Why Am I Writing This Essay?*

Step 5: Move on to Further Develop Your Evidence or Present New Evidence	118
Step 2: Present Evidence for the New Idea	119
Step 3: Discuss Evidence for the New Idea	120
Step 4: Discuss How Your Evidence Supports Your Thesis	121
Exercises for Chapter 09	124



PART 04: The Origins of Language IV: African Myth

129

Chapter 10: The Art of Language | The Ever-Changing Verb **131**

The Ever-Changing Verb	132
Exercises on Verbs	132
The Base	132
Exercises on The Base	133
To Conjugate	133
Exercises on Conjugation	134
Verb Agreement	134
Exercises on Verb Agreement	135
Verb Tense	135
Exercises on Verb Tense and Conjugation	136
The Verb “Be”	137
Active Verbs vs. The Passive Verb	138
Be as a Helping Verb	140
Exercises on Active and Passive Verbs	140
Exercises for Chapter 10	142

Chapter 11: The Act of Reading | Dialogue with the Text **147**

Selected Reading: Lewis Carroll, <i>Alice in Wonderland</i>	
Analysis	149
Exercises for Chapter 11	152

Chapter 12: The Act of Writing | Dialogue to Analysis to Essay **159**

Freewriting	159
Exercises for Chapter 12	164



**PART 05: The Origins of Language V: Australian Myth****167****Chapter 13: The Art of Language | Punctuation****169**

The Most Common Punctuation Marks (and the Most Common Comma Rules) 171

Exercises for Chapter 13 175

Chapter 14: The Act of Reading | Quote | Paraphrase | Summary**181**

Quote, Paraphrase, Summary 181

Selected Reading: John Seabrook, “Renaissance Pears” 181

Quote 184

Paraphrase 184

What is Summary 185

Exercises for Chapter 14 187

Chapter 15: The Act of Writing | Dialogue with the Reader**193**

Using Quote/Paraphrase/Summary to Present Evidence 193

Quote 194

Paraphrase 194

Summary 195

Exercises for Chapter 15 197

PART 06: The Origins of Language VI: Asian Myth**203****CHAPTER 16: The Art of Language | Making the Sentence Work Right****205**

Joining Independent Clauses 206

Two Common Errors: Run-on Sentences 206

Fused Sentences 207

Comma Splice 208

Exercises for Chapter 16 210

Chapter 17: The Act of Reading | Essay as Argument**215**

Selected Reading: William Manchester, “Okinawa, The Bloodiest Battle of All” 216





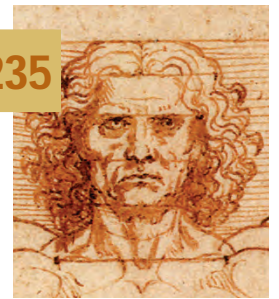
x THE ASSIGNMENT: *Why Am I Writing This Essay?*

Dialogue of Text with Text(s)	218
Exercises for Chapter 17	220

Chapter 18: The Act of Writing | Dialogue with Text(s) 227

Language Expresses Identity	227
Dialogue of the Text with the Text(s)	228
Exercises for Chapter 18	232

APPENDIX: The Origins of Language VII: A Scientific Explanation 235



Index 01 Proofreading marks	237
Index 02 Pronouns	238
Index 03 Conjunctions	243
Index 04 Prepositions	245
Index 05 How Prepositional Phrases Work	247
Index 06 Irregular Verbs	249
Index 07 helping verbs	255
Index 08 punctuation	257

ESSAYS 265

The Way to Rainy Mountain by N. Scott Momaday	267
The Story of an Eyewitness: The San Francisco Earthquake by Jack London	273
Modern Love by Diane Ackerman	279
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll	281
Renaissance Pears by John Seabrook	285
The Bloodiest Battle by William Manchester	293
20 Days in the City of Angels: The 12th Day (Getting Along) by Douglas Messerli	301
Darkness by Verlyn Klinkenborg	307
World Making & Hunger by Ursula LeGuin	311
The Discovery of What it Means to be an American by James Baldwin	315





CONTENTS xi

Buried Alive by Language by Helen Barolini	321
The Day of the Dead by Octavio Paz	327
A Moment of Silence by Steve Friedman	339
Why are Movies so Bad? Or, the Numbers by Pauline Kael	349

