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# Skills for Effective Writing



Skill Walk	kthrough	vi
Skill 1	Avoiding Sentence Fragments, Run-Ons, and Comma Splices The Environment and You	2
Skill 2	Connectors 1: Connectors for Cause and Effect Writing Consumer Behavior	6
Skill 3	Simple Strategies for Making Writing More Academic Social Responsibility	10
Skill 4	Paraphrasing to Avoid Plagiarism Alternative Energy Sources	14
Skill 5	<b>Topic, Supporting, and Concluding Sentences</b> Family Size and Personality	18
Skill 6	Parallel Structure Communication Styles	22
Skill 7	Appropriate Sources Family Values in Different Cultures	26
Skill 8	Connectors 2: Connectors for Compare and Contrast Writing Business Practices	30
Skill 9	Sentence Variety The American Dream	34
Skill 10	Punctuation for Quotations Immigrant Life	38
Skill 11	Strategies to Avoid Repetition of Words  Job Interviewing	42
Skill 12	<b>Avoiding Wordiness and Redundancy</b> Business Personalities	46
Skill 13	Avoiding Frequently Misspelled Words Genetically Modified Food	50
Skill 14	Facts vs. Opinions Children and Health	54
Skill 15	Acknowledging Opposing Opinions Patients, Doctors, and the Internet	58
Skill 16	Avoiding Choppy Sentences and Stringy Sentences Leading a Healthy Life	62
Skill 17	Summarizing Outside Sources Privacy in the Digital Age	66

Skill 18	Avoiding Overgeneralizations Violence, Media, and Children	70
Skill 19	Avoiding Charged Language Information Overload	74
Skill 20	Elements of a Strong Argument Social Networking	78
Glossary	y of Writing Terms	82
Academi	ic Word List	86

Discrete writing skills, such as creating topic sentences and recognizing irrelevant information, are critical for good writers. This 4-level series teaches these skills and offers extensive practice opportunities.

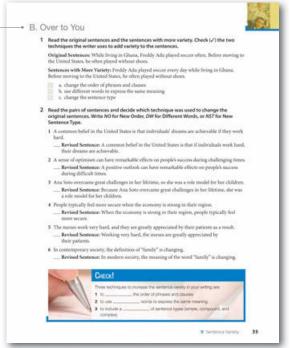


### SKILL PRESENTATION

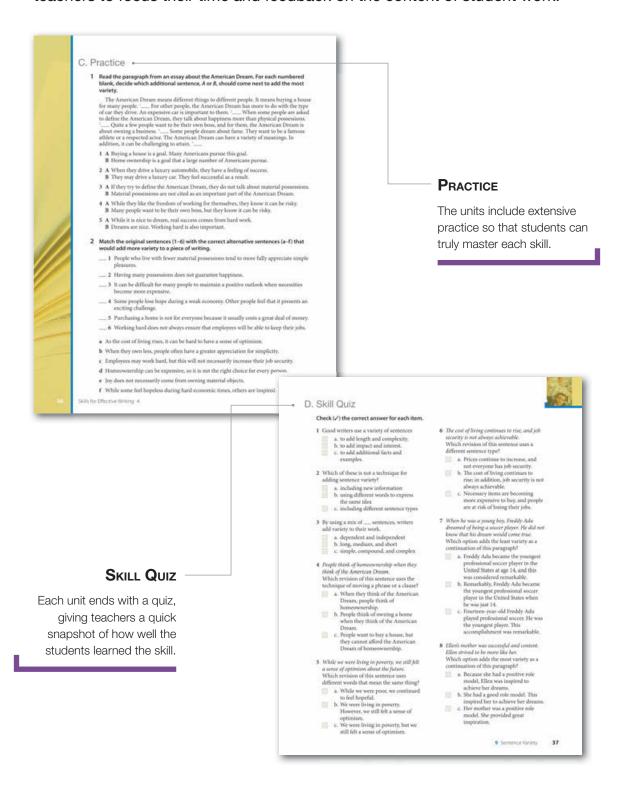
Each unit teaches a single discrete writing skill, helping students focus their attention on developing the skill fully.

## OVER TO YOU

Following instruction, students are eased into the skill's application, facilitating their understanding of exactly how each skill works.



When students master these skills, all of their writing improves. This allows teachers to focus their time and feedback on the content of student work.



# THE ENVIRONMENT AND YOU

C I ride my bike.

# Connecting to the Theme

How "environmentally friendly" are you?

How do you get to school or work each day?

A I take the subway. B I always drive.

What do you use to take notes on in class?

- A I use a notebook made from 100 percent recycled paper. B I use expensive, white, lined paper.
- C I use my laptop.

What kinds of bags do you use at the grocery store?

- A I use paper bags that I recycle.
- C I use a canvas bag that I re-use each day.

**B** I use plastic bags that I throw away.

environmentally triendly.

Mostly As: there's room for improvement! Mostly Bs: you're not environmentally triendly at all. Mostly Cs: you're very environmentally triendly.

# A. Skill Presentation

Some of the most common mistakes in writing are using sentence fragments, run-on sentences, and comma splices.

A sentence fragment is the result of

- · a sentence missing either a subject or a verb.
- a sentence not expressing a complete idea.
- a dependent clause being used on its own without an independent clause.

Look at these sentence fragments and how they can be corrected.

Is a major problem. 

✓ (missing a subject)

Water pollution is a major problem. ✓

Environmentalists work the effects of pollution. **✗** (doesn't express a complete idea) Environmentalists work **to decrease** the effects of pollution. **✓** 

Because it affects the whole world. 

✓ (missing an independent clause)

Pollution is a global problem because it affects the whole world. ✓

A **run-on sentence** has two or more independent clauses that are connected without a comma or a conjunction. Look at this sentence and how it can be corrected.

Air pollution can cause health problems it can make existing problems worse. ✗
Air pollution can cause health problems. It can make existing problems worse. ✓
Air pollution can cause health problems, and it can make existing problems worse. ✓

A **comma splice** has two or more independent clauses that are connected with a comma, but without a conjunction. Look at this sentence and how it can be corrected.

People may have access to water, this water may not be clean. ✗ People may have access to water, **but** this water may not be clean. ✓