Writing Skills in Action 2: Subject Verb Agreement

Writing Skills in Action is designed to put into practice specific writing traits, i.e., capitalization, grammar, punctuation, and usage to develop your understanding of how to write more effectively.

Prompts may either be creative fiction or analytical responses – determine the type of prompt and the audience then write accordingly.

Directions

**Write a half-page response** to the prompt below. While you write your response, include sentences that fit the grammar and punctuation rules below, and any other specific requirements for this task.

You need to identify each rule/requirement by using the “Comment” tool (under the “Review” tab) in Word.

Example: *He said, “Treat her as you would your own daughter.”*

3 Prompt Options:

1. Read the article “Trump’s Twitter Threats Put American Credibility on the Line” by Steven Erlanger -- <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/07/world/europe/trump-tweets-american-credibility.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=first-column-region&region=top-news&WT.nav=top-news> -- from the New York Times. **Write a response for the following:**
	* State your position on this issue. Discuss the role social media outlets like Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram should play in communications for high ranking government officials, business people, or celebrities.
	* Discuss the way you use social media outlets and the guidelines/rules you institute for yourself regarding the nature and content of your posts and/or tweets.
2. In *The Cop and the Anthem*, by O. Henry, Soapy refuses to take charity out of pride, and, instead, tries to commit crimes so he gets arrested and spends “three months on the island.” **Write an analysis for the following:**
	* How is Soapy’s logic flawed?
	* How does the story represent the greater debate regarding the State’s role in providing assistance or programs geared toward the poor or homeless?
	* What costs more, government assistance programs or penitentiaries?
3. **Start a story where the following leaves off:**
	* You come into work one morning and the dry erase board on your desk has a note on it that you didn't write. You assume it's a coworker friend so, just to amuse yourself, you respond to the note on the board with your own note. The next morning you come in and there's...

These rules are taken directly from the grammar and punctuation skills unit. You must write a sentence for each rule listed below. Each sentence must be grammatically and punctually correct. Label each sentence using the “Comment” feature in Word (click the review tab) to indicate which rule is applied in the sentence.

1. Use a spelled-out fraction – *make sure to* *hyphenate spelled-out fractions, i.e., one-fourth*
2. Subject/Verb Agreement Rule 4: When a singular subject is connected by *or* or *nor* to a plural subject, put the plural subject last and use a plural verb.
	* Example: *The serving bowl or the plates go on that shelf.*
3. Subject/Verb Agreement Rule 6: As a general rule, use a plural verb with two or more subjects when they are connected by *and*.
	* *Example:* *A car and a bike are my means of transportation.*
4. Subject/Verb Agreement Rule 8: The pronouns *each, everyone, every one, everybody, anyone, anybody, someone,* and *somebody* are singular and require singular verbs. Do NOT be misled by what follows *of*.
	* *Example:* *Each of the girls sings well.*
5. Subject/Verb Agreement Rule 12: Use a singular verb with sums of money or periods of time.
	* *Example:* *Ten dollars is a high price to pay.*