Writing Skills in Action 4: Pronouns

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

Prompts may 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.”*

Prompt(s):

1. In the TED Talk “The American Dream,” -- <https://www.ted.com/talks/courtney_martin_the_new_american_dream/transcript> -- Courtney E. Martin says, “more and more Americans are redefining what "better off" really means.” **Describe what “better off” means to you. What is your “American Dream?”**
2. On Friday, Senate Democrats and Republicans couldn’t reach an agreement regarding government funding. The Democrats used this procedure as leverage to force their Republican counterparts to act on the DACA program which is set to expire in March and would deport roughly 800,000 people who came here as children. Democrats distrust Republicans to follow through with their pledge to prevent this from happening – read this article to learn more <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/21/us/politics/shutdown-immigration.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=first-column-region&region=top-news&WT.nav=top-news>. In 2013, Republicans used the same leverage against Democrats to repeal parts of the ACA. Some might say the bigger issue is the lack of compromise and a spirit of working together to solve bigger problems in modern politics. **Discuss your position on the use of this procedure to force the opposing side to act on a piece of legislation. Are there alternatives? What other incentives could be employed to bring both sides together to compromise?**
3. The Entomological Society Krefeld, a volunteer-run group of amateur insect enthusiasts, recently published their findings showing that the insect population they tested in nature preserves in western Germany had decreased by over 75 percent over the course of thirty years. This decline is thought to accurately reflect the insect species on a much larger and international scale. **Write a short story that takes place in a world where there are no insects left.** Aside from no longer needing to clean bugs off of car windshields, what are the repercussions given the integral role that insects play in the ecosystem? Does your story include a movement to bring insects back?

The rules below 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. Do NOT use the pronoun “you” a single time in the response
2. Write a sentence that begins with a **weak clause**: A **weak clause** begins with words such as *although, since, if, when*, and *because*. Weak clauses cannot stand on their own.
   * *Example:* *Although she is hungry, she refused to eat.*
3. Rule 2:*Subject pronouns are also used if they rename the subject. They will follow to be verbs such as is, are, was, were, am, and will be.*
   * Example: *It is he.*
4. Rule 5: *To decide whether to use the Subject or Object Pronoun after the words than or as, mentally complete the sentence.*
   * Example: *Tranh is as smart as she.*
   * If we mentally complete the sentence, we would say, *Tranh is as smart as she is*. Therefore, *she* is the correct answer.
5. Rule 6: **Possessive pronouns** show ownership and never need apostrophes. **Possessive pronouns**: *mine, yours, his, hers, its, ours*, and *theirs*.
   * Example: *It’s a cold morning*. (Mentally read out the sentence without the contraction to determine if *its* needs an apostrophe: *It is a cold morning*.)

**Note:** The only time *it’s* has an apostrophe is when it is a contraction for *it is* or *it has*.