Writing Skills in Action 3: 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. Begin a story with “There was once a chance I didn’t take…”
2. The term “ultracrepidarianism,” or the habit of giving opinions and advice on issues outside one’s scope of knowledge, comes from a comment made by Greek artist Apelles to a shoemaker who criticized one of the artist’s paintings. The phrase “*Sutor, ne ultra crepidam*,” essentially means that the shoemaker should not judge beyond his own soles. This week, write a piece on the value of voicing opinions regardless of your expertise on the subject matter.
3. Watch this Tedtalk -- <https://www.ted.com/talks/ismael_nazario_what_i_learned_as_a_kid_in_jail>, then discuss how you would reform the juvenile detention system.

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*.