Writing Skills in Action: Effective Writing

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.

Prompt

*If you could invent something to help mankind, what would it be? Describe in detail what it does, how it benefits mankind, and why it should be invented.*

### Rules

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. Semicolon Rule 1: Use a semicolon in place of a period to separate two sentences where the conjunction has been left out.
	* *Example:* *Call me tomorrow; I will give you my answer then.*
2. Effective Writing Rule 2: Use active voice whenever possible. Active voice means the subject is performing the verb – for this writing exercise, do NOT use a single have or has + verb construction in a sentence.
	* Active Example: Barry hit the ball.
	* Passive Example: *The ball was hit by Barry.*
3. Effective Writing Rule 5: Use a similar grammatical form when offering several ideas. This is called **parallel construction**.
	* Correct Example: *You should check your spelling, grammar, and punctuation.*
	* *Incorrect Example: You should check your spelling, grammar, and punctuating*
4. Effective Writing Rule 6: If you start a sentence with an action, place the actor immediately after or you will have created the infamous **dangling modifier**.
	* *Incorrect Example:* *While walking across the street, the bus hit her.*
	* *Correct Example: While walking across the street, she was hit by a bus.*
	* *Better Example: She was hit by a bus while walking across the street.*
5. Subject Verb Agreement Rule 7: Sometimes the subject is separated from the verb by words such as *along with, as well as, besides,* or *not.* IGNORE these expressions when determining whether to use a singular or plural verb.
	* *Example: The politician, along with the newsman, is expected shortly.*