

**Oberlin High School**  
**Grade 11 English Language**  
**October 12-16, 2020**

**Activity 1- Subject Verb Agreement**

**Underline the subject (or compound subject) and then identify the verb that agrees with it.**

For example: Everyone in the telecom focus group (has/have) experienced problems with cell phones.

1. Your friendship over the years and your support (has/have) meant a great deal to us.
2. Hamilton Family Center, a shelter for teenage runaways in San Francisco, (offers/offer) a wide variety of services.
3. The main source of income for Trinidad (is/are) oil and pitch.
4. The chances of your being promoted (is/are) excellent.
5. There (was/were) a Pokémon card stuck to the refrigerator.
6. Neither the professor nor his assistants (was/were) able to solve the mystery of the eerie glow in the laboratory.
7. Many hours at the driving range (has/have) led us to design golf balls with GPS locators in them.
8. Discovered in the soil of our city garden (was/were) a button dating from the Civil War dating from the turn of the century.
9. Every year, during the midsummer festival, the smoke of village bonfires (fills/fill) the sky.

10. The story performers (was/were) surrounded by children and adults eager to see magical tales. (10 marks)

### **Activity 2- Subject Verb Agreement**

Edit the following sentences to eliminate problems with subject-verb agreement and write the edited sentence. If a sentence is correct, write "correct."

For example: Jack's first days in the infantry was gruelling.

Answer: Jack's first days in the infantry were gruelling.

1. One of the main reasons for elephant poaching are the profits received from selling the ivory tusks.

Answer:

2. Not until my interview with Dr. Chang were other possibilities opened to me.

Answer:

3. Batik cloth from Bali, blue and white ceramics from Cambodia, and a bocce ball from Turin has made Hannah's room the talk of the dorm.

Answer:

4. The board of directors, ignoring the wishes of the neighbourhood, has voted to allow further development.

Answer:

5. Measles is a contagious childhood disease.

Answer:

6. The presence of certain bacteria in our bodies are one of the factors that determines our overall health.

Answer:

7. Leah is the only one of the many applicants who has the ability to step into this job.

Answer:

8. Neither the explorer nor his companions was ever seen again.

Answer:

(8marks)

### **Activity 3**

**Rewrite the following passage and correct errors of subject verb agreement.**

#### Tornadoes

What causes a tornado? A “front” form between a cold air mass and a warm air mass. Sometimes a cold air mass move in above the warm air. The hot air rises. It spins. Then it form a funnel-shaped cloud—a tornado. Weather experts looks for these conditions. Then they gives a “tornado watch.” The winds inside a tornado may reach 500 miles per hour. Sometimes a tornado touch the ground and destroy everything in its way.

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(7 marks)

## **Activity 4- Narrative vs. Expository Writing**

### **Examining the difference between Narrative and Expository writing**

A narrative essay is a story which can relate to the author's personal experience or may be fictional.

A narrative essay:

- Is creative - the author can come up with a unique story, creating something new and exciting.
- Is personal - your own experience can be mentioned.
- Uses various linguistic "decorations" to make the story more compelling.
- Usually, develops in chronological order with rare flashbacks.
- Can contain personal pronouns.

As far as an expository essay is concerned, it should be mentioned that it explores a specific topic in depth. This type is very informative and usually includes different instructions and raw facts. You can't put a personal story into this essay type.

Expository writing:

- Includes many facts which prove the thesis statement.
- Contains verified information, concerning a particular topic.
- Is organized in a logical manner.
- Gives the writer's opinion on the matter, backed by proof.
- Explains the reasons behind processes.

These types of writing are not very similar, and the key difference between them is their style. In the narrative essay, you write a fictitious or your own story, and you can be as creative as you want. On the contrary, when writing the expository essay, you should abide by strict structuring rules, give facts, specific information, instructions and, of course, explanations.

## Elements of a story

**Setting:** Where and when is the story set? Setting represents both the physical location but also the time (i.e. past, present, future) and the social and cultural conditions in which the characters exist.

2. **Character:** A person or animal or really anything personified. There can be one main character or many, and often there are secondary characters, but not always.

3. **Plot:** The plot consists of the events that happen in the story. In a plot you typically find an introduction, rising action, a climax, the falling action, and a resolution.

4. **Conflict:** Every story must have a conflict, i.e. a challenge or problem around which the plot is based. Without conflict, the story will have no purpose or trajectory.

5. **Theme:** Idea, belief, moral, lesson or insight. It's the central argument that the author is trying to make the reader understand. The theme is the "why" of the story.

6. **Point-of-view:** "Who" is telling the story? First person ("I") or third person ("he/she/it"). Limited (one character's perspective), multiple (many characters' perspectives) or omniscient (all knowing narrator). Second person ("you") is not often used for writing stories.

7. **Tone:** The overall emotional "tone" or meaning of the story. Is it happy, funny, sad, depressed? Tone can be portrayed in multiple ways, through word and grammar choices, choice of theme, imagery and description, symbolism, and the sounds of the words in combination (i.e. rhyme, rhythm, musicality).

8. **Style:** This is *how* things are said. Word choices, sentence structure, dialogue, metaphor, simile, hyperbole. Style contributes significantly to tone.

### **Activity 4- Narrative Writing**

**Examining how narrative writing elements are used in a story.**

Instructional Text: English for All- Examination Level (CSEC)- Roy Narinesingh with Bhadase Seetahal-Maraj

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