

### Common Writing Assignments

**Personal Narrative**

**Students write about themselves in their own voice.**

- "I got a dog for my birthday. His name is Woofie. He is very cute!"
- "I went to Disneyland for the first time. It was on my school trip."

**Compare & Contrast**

**Students write about how something is similar (compare) and different (contrast). Often students may write from a prompt or reading.**

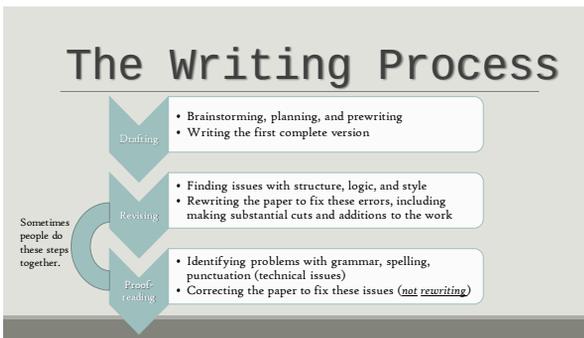
- "Bananas and apples are healthy fruits but I like bananas more than apples because they are easy to eat."
- "New York and Tokyo are great, big cities. But Tokyo is bigger because it has a million more people than New York."

### Common Writing Assignments

**Argument**

**Students make a claim (argument) and provide support (reasons) for it. Often students are assigned to read an article, quote, or essay first, and then write about it.**

- "My favorite holiday is Halloween. I love scary things and wearing costumes."
- "Every year in America, guns hurt or kill over 10,000 people. To save lives, America should make it difficult for people to buy and own guns."



### Process Breakdown

The following is a real writing assignment used in a 2<sup>nd</sup>-year high school English class:

Topic: What problems will we face if we continue to cut down a lot of trees?  
(80-100 words)

## 1st Draft

I think we will face many serious problems. I have two examples. First, more and more disasters happen because trees play an important role on the earth. In particular, landslide disasters increase and global warming will progress if trees decrease. Second, human beings and animals will not be able to live because cutting down a lot of trees their residences destroy. Also, the more trees we cut down, the more serious animals become extinct. Therefore a lot of trees cause many serious problems.

83 words

## Revision (Structure)

INTRODUCTION:  
States the Argument

I think we will face many serious problems. I have two examples.

BODY:  
Provides Reasons

First, more and more disasters happen because trees play an important role on the earth. In particular, landslide disasters increase and global warming will progress if trees decrease. Second, human beings and animals will not be able to live because cutting down a lot of trees their residences destroy. Also, the more trees we cut down, the more serious animals become extinct.

CONCLUSION:  
Summarizes the Argument

Therefore a lot of trees cause many serious problems.

## Revision (Introduction - JHS)

I think we will face many serious problems. I have two examples.



Training wheels are on!

## Revision (Introduction - SHS)

**I think** we will face many serious problems. **I have two examples.**

~~"I think~~ We will face many serious problems **if we continue to cut down trees.** ~~I have two examples."~~



Training wheels are off! It's the big bicycle from now on!

## Revision (Body)

First, more and more **disasters happen because trees play an important role** on the earth. In particular, **landslide disasters** increase and **global warming** will progress if trees decrease. Second, human beings and animals will not be able to live because **cutting down a lot of trees their residences destroy**. Also, the more trees we cut down, **the more serious animals become extinct.**

## Revision (Conclusion)

Therefore a lot of **trees cause many serious problems.**

Now that you've looked through the writing, it's time for the student to rewrite the paper and make a second draft.

## Why wait to proofread?

Sometimes people do the first revision and proofreading in the same step. This isn't wrong, but it isn't always the best method. Why?

Sometimes students have to change their paper so much that many proofreading corrections may not apply, so it is a waste of time.

You want students to be able to realize when they make mistakes. When they rewrite the paper, they often catch errors they miss the first time, and correct them on their own.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft with Proofreading (JHS)

I think we will face many serious problems. I have two examples. First, trees play an important role on the earth. More and more disasters happen when we cut down trees. In particular, landslide disasters increase and global warming will progress if trees decrease. Second, human beings and animals will not be able to live because cutting down a lot of trees destroys their residences. Also, the more trees we cut **down**, the more animals become extinct. **Therefore** cutting down a lot of trees causes many serious problems.

## Final Draft (JHS)

I think we will face many serious problems. I have two examples. First, trees play an important role on the earth. More and more disasters happen when we cut down trees. In particular, landslide disasters increase and global warming will progress if trees decrease. Second, human beings and animals will not be able to live because cutting down a lot of trees destroys their residences. Also, the more trees we cut down, the more animals become extinct. Therefore, cutting down a lot of trees causes many serious problems.

88 words

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft (SHS)

We will face many serious problems if we continue to cut down trees. First, trees play an important role on the earth because they protect us from natural disasters. More and more disasters happen when we cut down trees. In particular, landslide disasters increase because without trees, the ground is weaker, and global warming will progress if trees decrease, because trees won't be there to clean the air. Second, human beings and animals will not be able to live because cutting down a lot of trees destroys their residences. Also, the more trees we cut dow, the more animals become extinct. Therefore cutting down a lot of trees causes many serious problems when they can't protect us anymore.

118 words

## Revision & Proofreading (SHS)

We will face many serious problems if we continue to cut down trees. First, trees play an important role on the earth because they protect us from natural disasters. **More and more disasters happen when we cut down trees:** In particular, landslide disasters increase because without trees, the ground is weaker, and global warming will progress **if trees decrease**, because trees won't be there to clean the air. Second, human beings and animals will not be able to live because cutting down a lot of trees destroys their residences. Also, **the more trees we cut down, the** more animals will become extinct. Therefore, cutting down **a lot of** trees causes **many serious** problems when they can't protect us anymore.

## Final Draft (SHS)

We will face many serious problems if we continue to cut down trees. First, trees play an important role on the earth because they protect us from natural disasters. In particular, landslide disasters increase because without trees, the ground is weaker, and global warming will progress because trees won't be there to clean the air. Second, human beings and animals will not be able to live because cutting down a lot of trees destroys their residences. Also, more animals will become extinct. Therefore, cutting down trees causes problems when they can't protect us anymore.

94 words

## Teaching Challenges

Choosing  
the purpose  
of the  
assignment

Student,  
JTE, and  
ALT roles

Plagiarism

Giving  
feedback to  
students

Time  
management

## Question & Answer Time

