

APA Write and Cite Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. Identify the error in this sentence: The process was perfected mostly through trial and error.**
 - A. Spelling error**
 - B. Subject/verb agreement**
 - C. Fragment/run-on**
 - D. No error.**
- 2. What is one primary benefit of using a rubric when writing an academic paper?**
 - A. It provides universally applicable writing techniques for all assignments.**
 - B. It allows significant flexibility in the structure of the paper.**
 - C. It lays out the expectations and grading criteria clearly for the student.**
 - D. It completely dictates how the content should be written, leaving no room for personal expression.**
- 3. Using the advice in the writing style section, choose the style mistake in the following sentence: "Mrs. Johnson expelled Lexi from the class because she was having a temper tantrum."**
 - A. The use of passive voice makes the writing less forceful.**
 - B. The sentence structure is ambiguous; we don't know whether it was Mrs. Johnson or Lexi who had the temper tantrum.**
 - C. Excessive wordiness. The writer should be more concise.**
 - D. No error. The sentence is clear and specific.**
- 4. Identify the error in the sentence: Both of the authors is well-known.**
 - A. Spelling error**
 - B. Subject/verb agreement**
 - C. Fragment/run-on**
 - D. No error**

5. What grammatical issue is present in: "Although my friend and I both followed the same exercise program, she lost more weight than me."?
- A. Too many commas are distracting.
 - B. Misuse of pronoun.
 - C. Inconsistency in verb tense.
 - D. No error.
6. Which of the following should you NOT use when drafting a discussion board post?
- A. Examples of common knowledge, even if unsupported.
 - B. References to areas in the lesson or textbook that answer the question.
 - C. Your personal thoughts and experiences.
 - D. References to scholarly sources that support your position.
7. Which of the following is necessary for a proper citation of a webpage?
- A. Author's name and publication year only
 - B. Webpage title only
 - C. URL only
 - D. Author's name, publication year, title, and URL
8. Identify the error in the sentence: The committee have made their decision.
- A. Spelling error
 - B. Subject/verb agreement
 - C. Fragment/run-on
 - D. No error
9. What does "double-spacing" mean in APA formatting?
- A. The space between each paragraph should be twice the size of the text
 - B. The space between each line of text should be equivalent to the height of two lines
 - C. Every other line should be skipped entirely
 - D. All text should be spread out evenly across the page

10. Identify the grammatical error in the sentence: "Many medical providers (including the local public health clinic) promote four keys to living a healthy life: exercising, healthy diet, a balanced life, and avoid substances like alcohol, drugs, and tobacco."?

- A. Lack of uniformity in lists.**
- B. Too many commas break the flow.**
- C. Inconsistency in verb tense.**
- D. No error.**

Answers

SAMPLE

- 1. A**
- 2. C**
- 3. B**
- 4. B**
- 5. B**
- 6. A**
- 7. D**
- 8. B**
- 9. B**
- 10. A**

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. Identify the error in this sentence: The process was perfected mostly through trial and error.

A. Spelling error

B. Subject/verb agreement

C. Fragment/run-on

D. No error.

The correct answer is that there is no error in the sentence "The process was perfected mostly through trial and error." This sentence is grammatically correct and effectively communicates its message without any spelling, grammatical, or structural issues. The phrase utilizes proper subject-verb agreement, as "the process" and "was perfected" work together cohesively. Additionally, the sentence is complete with a clear subject and verb and does not present any issues related to being a fragment or run-on. In this context, the sentence accurately conveys that the process improved through the method of trial and error. Each component of the sentence aligns with standard English conventions, reinforcing that it is indeed error-free.

2. What is one primary benefit of using a rubric when writing an academic paper?

A. It provides universally applicable writing techniques for all assignments.

B. It allows significant flexibility in the structure of the paper.

C. It lays out the expectations and grading criteria clearly for the student.

D. It completely dictates how the content should be written, leaving no room for personal expression.

Using a rubric when writing an academic paper is highly beneficial because it clearly outlines the expectations and grading criteria for the student. This clarity helps students understand what is required from them in terms of content, organization, and style. A rubric provides specific benchmarks for assessment, which can guide writers in what they need to focus on in their work to meet the standards set by instructors or academic institutions. This can lead to enhanced performance since students know exactly how their work will be evaluated. In contrast, the other options do not accurately reflect the primary benefits of using a rubric. While a rubric does not provide universally applicable writing techniques for all assignments, it instead tailors criteria to specific tasks. Furthermore, a rubric typically sets certain expectations around structure and content rather than offering significant flexibility; it provides a framework for students to use while still allowing for individual expression within that framework, rather than completely dictating how content should be written. This balance between guidance and personal voice is an integral component of rubric effectiveness.

3. Using the advice in the writing style section, choose the style mistake in the following sentence: "Mrs. Johnson expelled Lexi from the class because she was having a temper tantrum."

A. The use of passive voice makes the writing less forceful.

B. The sentence structure is ambiguous; we don't know whether it was Mrs. Johnson or Lexi who had the temper tantrum.

C. Excessive wordiness. The writer should be more concise.

D. No error. The sentence is clear and specific.

The reason this choice is correct lies in the ambiguity of the pronoun "she" within the sentence. The construction makes it unclear whether "she" refers to Mrs. Johnson or Lexi. This type of ambiguity can lead to misunderstandings and confuse the reader regarding who actually had the temper tantrum. In academic writing, clarity is paramount, and sentences should always make it explicit who or what is being referred to. By restructuring the sentence to specify that Lexi was the one having the temper tantrum, the writer would eliminate this confusion and enhance the clarity of the communication. This adjustment aligns with the guidelines of effective writing that emphasize the importance of avoiding ambiguous references.

4. Identify the error in the sentence: Both of the authors is well-known.

A. Spelling error

B. Subject/verb agreement

C. Fragment/run-on

D. No error

The sentence "Both of the authors is well-known" contains a subject/verb agreement error. In this context, the subject is "Both of the authors," which is plural since it refers to more than one author. Therefore, the correct verb form should also be plural. The verb "is" is singular, which creates a discrepancy between the subject and the verb. The correct form of the verb should be "are," resulting in the correct sentence: "Both of the authors are well-known." This highlights the importance of ensuring that the verb matches the subject in number, which is a foundational rule in English grammar.

5. What grammatical issue is present in: "Although my friend and I both followed the same exercise program, she lost more weight than me."?

A. Too many commas are distracting.

B. Misuse of pronoun.

C. Inconsistency in verb tense.

D. No error.

The sentence "Although my friend and I both followed the same exercise program, she lost more weight than me" contains a grammatical issue related to the misuse of pronouns. In this context, the correct pronoun to use is "I" instead of "me." When a comparison is made between two subjects, the pronoun should be in the subject form. In this case, "she lost more weight than I [did]" is the appropriate construction, as "I" is the subject pronoun. The phrase can be understood as being implied: "than I lost." This grammatical nuance highlights the importance of using proper pronoun forms to maintain clarity and correctness in writing. In contrast, the other choices do not apply to this sentence. The sentence does not suffer from excessive commas, inconsistencies in verb tense, or lack any errors overall. The focus remains on ensuring that pronoun usage follows the grammatical rules dictated by the structure of the sentence.

6. Which of the following should you NOT use when drafting a discussion board post?

A. Examples of common knowledge, even if unsupported.

B. References to areas in the lesson or textbook that answer the question.

C. Your personal thoughts and experiences.

D. References to scholarly sources that support your position.

The emphasis on avoiding examples of common knowledge, even if unsupported, is crucial in a discussion board post for several reasons. Common knowledge typically refers to information that is widely known and accepted, such as basic historical facts or widely recognized scientific principles. When crafting academic or discussion-based responses, it is important to provide evidence and support for positions taken. Unsupported claims, even if they revolve around common knowledge, can weaken the argument being presented as they do not contribute depth or legitimacy to the discussion. In contrast, references to specific areas in the lesson or textbook, personal thoughts and experiences, and citations from scholarly sources all serve to enrich the post, support claims made, and encourage a thoughtful exchange of ideas. Including well-supported references illustrates a connection to course materials and demonstrates engagement with the topic, thereby fostering a more substantive dialogue in an academic setting.

7. Which of the following is necessary for a proper citation of a webpage?

- A. Author's name and publication year only**
- B. Webpage title only**
- C. URL only**
- D. Author's name, publication year, title, and URL**

A proper citation of a webpage in APA format requires several key elements to ensure that readers can locate the source accurately. These elements are the author's name, the publication year, the title of the webpage, and the URL. Including the author's name provides credit to the individual or organization responsible for the content. The publication year gives context regarding the currency of the information, which is essential as webpages can be updated frequently. The title of the webpage is vital because it provides the specific subject of the content being referenced. Lastly, the URL is necessary for directing readers to the exact source online. By combining all these elements, you enable anyone reading your work to trace the original source without ambiguity, making the citation comprehensive and properly formatted according to APA guidelines.

8. Identify the error in the sentence: The committee have made their decision.

- A. Spelling error**
- B. Subject/verb agreement**
- C. Fragment/run-on**
- D. No error**

The sentence "The committee have made their decision" contains a subject/verb agreement error. In this case, "committee" is a collective noun that is treated as a singular entity in American English. Therefore, the correct verb form should be "has" instead of "have." The proper phrasing would be "The committee has made its decision." This highlights that while a committee consists of multiple members, it functions as a single unit in this context, necessitating the use of a singular verb. This choice demonstrates an important principle in English grammar regarding collective nouns and their agreement with verbs. Understanding subject/verb agreement is crucial for writing clearly and effectively, allowing readers to understand the intended meaning without confusion.

9. What does "double-spacing" mean in APA formatting?

- A. The space between each paragraph should be twice the size of the text**
- B. The space between each line of text should be equivalent to the height of two lines**
- C. Every other line should be skipped entirely**
- D. All text should be spread out evenly across the page**

Double-spacing in APA formatting refers to the practice of having the space between each line of text equivalent to the height of two lines, which means that there is no extra space added after paragraphs. This formatting style enhances readability and provides space for instructors or reviewers to make comments. In a properly double-spaced document, every line occupies the same amount of vertical space, ensuring uniformity throughout the text. This spacing is typically applied not just to the main body of the text but also to captions, block quotations, reference entries, and any other sections included in the document, maintaining consistency.

10. Identify the grammatical error in the sentence: "Many medical providers (including the local public health clinic) promote four keys to living a healthy life: exercising, healthy diet, a balanced life, and avoid substances like alcohol, drugs, and tobacco."?

- A. Lack of uniformity in lists.**
- B. Too many commas break the flow.**
- C. Inconsistency in verb tense.**
- D. No error.**

The sentence in question has a grammatical inconsistency in its list format, which is why identifying a lack of uniformity in lists makes the most sense as the correct answer. In a series, each item needs to maintain the same grammatical structure for clarity and coherence. Here, three items in the list are presented as nouns or noun phrases ("exercising," "healthy diet," and "a balanced life"), while the fourth item ("avoid substances like alcohol, drugs, and tobacco") is framed as a verb phrase. This inconsistency disrupts the flow and makes the list appear unbalanced. Ensuring that the items in a list align grammatically enhances readability and comprehension. By adjusting the last item to match the structure of the others - for example, by changing "avoid substances" to "avoiding substances" - the sentence would adhere to a uniform format and improve overall clarity.