

BROWNSVILLE ISD

Curriculum Department



ELAR Reading & Writing

G08 ELAR 3-6W 2122

8th Grade

District 6 Weeks 3rd
Regular English Version

Student ID

Student Name

Score(S)

REVISING AND EDITING



Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Kyle recently visited Washington, D.C. and was fascinated by the Smithsonian Museums. Kyle's teacher asked him to write an informational passage on the Smithsonian. He would like you to read his paper and look for any revisions he needs to make. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.

The Smithsonian

(1) The Smithsonian Museum is located in Washington, D.C. and is a national treasure. (2) Because it is the world's largest museum, people travel from all over the world to visit and experience what it has to offer. (3) The Smithsonian is comprised of 19 museums and art galleries to explore, as well as gardens and the National Zoological Park. (4) Some of the different museums include the African Art Museum, the Air and Space Museum, the American Indian Museum, and the Natural History Museum. (5) The Smithsonian was established in 1846. (6) James Smithson, a British scientist, left his estate to the United States, allowing for the establishment of the Smithsonian Institute.

(7) During our visit to the Smithsonian, they first stopped at the National Air and Space Museum, which has 23 galleries showing hundreds of aircraft, spacecraft, missiles, and rockets. (8) The galleries even house the 1903 Wright Flyer and had the Apollo 11 command module on display. (9) In addition, there are flight simulations and an "ask the expert" lecture series. (10) One fascinating exhibit is called "Moving Beyond Earth." (11) It looks at the achievements and challenges of human spaceflight in the United States during the space shuttle and space station era.

(12) The Natural History Museum, which has an IMAX, a Butterfly Pavilion, and even live tarantula feedings, was next on our list. (13) It contains exhibits, everything from the Human Genome Project, to life in ancient Egypt, to gems, geology, and minerals. (14) In addition, there are exhibits on the earliest human origins, the development of world cultures, and dinosaurs. (15) These exhibits are among the museum's most popular.



(16) I loved visiting our next stop, the national zoo, which houses giant pandas, Asian elephants, Sumatran tigers, and cheetahs. (17) The zoo even puts on an elephant training demonstration. (18) There is also a child-friendly exhibit which introduces children to farm animals at the barn, where visitors get a chance to see how animals are housed and cared for. (19) Visitors are introduced to and encouraged to interact with goats, miniature donkeys, and cows. (20) Another cool feature of the National Zoo is the Reptile Discovery Center, which houses over 70 species, including snakes, frogs, turtles, lizards, crocodiles, and Komodo dragons.

(21) Along with all of these historical exhibits, gardens, and zoos, there are also several art galleries to see at the Smithsonian, such as the Freer Gallery of Art. (22) Another noteworthy museum is the National Portrait Gallery, in which you will find the "America's Presidents" exhibit. (23) No matter what your interests were, you can always find something fascinating at the Smithsonian.



1 What is the **BEST** way to combine sentences 5 and 6?

- A In 1846, the Smithsonian was established, British scientist James Smithson had it established with his money.
 - B The Smithsonian, because of British scientist James Smithson was established in 1846.
 - C The Smithsonian was established in 1846 with the funds from British scientist James Smithson's estate.
 - D In 1846, British scientist James Smithson's estate was established.
-

2 How should sentence 7 be changed?

- F Change *During* to **Since**
 - G Delete the comma after *Smithsonian*
 - H Change *they* to **we**
 - J Insert a colon after *galleries*
-

3 What change should be made in sentence 8?

- A Change *galleries* to **gallery's**
- B Change *Wright Flyer* to **wright flyer**
- C Change *had* to **have**
- D Insert a comma after *module*

- 4 Kyle would like to provide a more effective closing in the second paragraph (sentences 7–11). Which sentence should be added after sentence 11 to accomplish this goal?
- F In the gift shop at the museum they even sell space ice cream.
 - G The National Air and Space Museum is very large and it is important to spend lots of time there.
 - H When you walk into the Air and Space Museum you can touch a rock from the Moon.
 - J The National Air and Space Museum has something for everyone, displaying the past, present, and future.
-

- 5 What is the **MOST** effective way to revise sentence 13?
- A It contains exhibits on the Human Genome Project, to life in ancient Egypt, but also things like gems, geology, and minerals.
 - B It contains exhibits covering everything from the Human Genome Project to life in ancient Egypt, as well as gems, geology, and minerals.
 - C It contains exhibits, everything including the Human Genome Project, to life in ancient Egypt, to gems, geology, and minerals.
 - D It contains everything from the Human Genome Project, and life in ancient Egypt, to gems, geology, and minerals.
-

- 6 What change should be made in sentence 16?
- F Delete the comma after **stop**
 - G Change **national zoo** to **National Zoo**
 - H Change **houses** to **house's**
 - J Change **tigers** to **Tigers**

7 Which word would be a more precise word to use than **cool** in sentence 20?

- A interesting
- B familiar
- C refreshing
- D extravagant

8 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 23?

- F Change **what** to **where**
- G Change **were** to **are**
- H Change **fascinating** to **fassinating**
- J No change is needed.

READING



Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

A Lasting Bond

Oh, to sit in gentle silence,
Our hearts beating side by side,
Finding comfort in the words unspoken,
It seems our fates are bound and tied.

5 To feel such bliss we can't contain
Overflowing into laughter,
Under endless, golden sun-filled days,
Our trust built on iron rafters.

To feel your guiding hand on mine
10 When I'm blinded by the rain,
We weather through dark nights together,
You fight my battles, bear my pain.

Through sun-filled days, through darkened storms,
No matter what might try to shake,
15 Resonating in my soul, undoubted:
Our bond will hold, our bond can't break.

- 9 What is the most likely reason the poet repeats the word “bond” in line 16?
- A To highlight how tied down the speaker feels about her relationship
 - B To show the reasons the speaker became friends with the person she is addressing
 - C To reveal why the speaker no longer wants to remain friends
 - D To emphasize the speaker's sense of loyalty
-

10 Which idea does the poet highlight throughout the poem?

- F The bond of true friendship endures throughout both triumphs and trials.
 - G It is challenging to maintain friendships over time.
 - H We should not involve our friends in our personal struggles.
 - J Joyful moments are best shared with a friend from our childhood.
-

11 Based on the details in the poem, the reader can conclude that the speaker —

- A thinks that the bond she shares with her friend is fragile, but would like to help strengthen it
- B wishes that she and her friend did not live so far apart
- C has been through difficult circumstances with her friend and is grateful for her support
- D feels that she needs to work on finding new friends

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

V is for Volunteer

- 1 Today, a growing number of students are being asked to become more involved in their communities. In response, many communities are partnering with schools to make sure that students are matched with the right kind of volunteering opportunities. These efforts not only help students meet community service requirements, but more importantly they can lead to an ongoing commitment to volunteer service for the rest of a student’s life. Volunteering can be beneficial in a multitude of ways, not just for the people receiving the help, but also for the volunteers.
- 2 The desire to be of service to others is probably the most common reason people volunteer. For many volunteers, the act of sharing their time and talents is freeing. When they give their time or skills, it allows them to help others in a way that they might not be able to do in a regular job or at school. Most volunteers choose to do so because they believe that their efforts—no matter how small—make a lasting difference in the lives of others. Imagine how grateful you would feel if complete strangers volunteered their own free time just to help you.
- 3 Volunteering also broadens an individual’s worldview. Working with others from different economic and cultural backgrounds allows people to see new viewpoints and understand differing perspectives. Volunteering is all about education because an individual has numerous opportunities to learn about others. The fact is, sometimes, it takes viewing the world through another’s eyes to appreciate the abundance that is present in our own lives or to see that more than one solution might exist to solve a problem.
- 4 Volunteers usually start out by choosing a field that they are already interested in or have background knowledge about. Volunteers at animal shelters are there because they love animals. Literacy volunteers offer their time to help others develop a love of literature and reading because they know that the ability to read well opens so many doors of opportunity for the people they are teaching. Those that enjoy cooking put their culinary skills to work in food pantries or homeless shelters. Technology professionals can teach basic computer skills to those in need. This can have a lasting impact by possibly helping them to be more independent in using technology, whether searching for a better job or writing a research paper for college. Volunteers help register voters or work the polls on Election Day. It is through their efforts that our democracy functions.
- 5 Studies have been done to understand the impact of volunteering on people. The studies show that these activities can dramatically shape a person’s life. People who volunteer frequently report experiencing a new awareness of their world. They see that their efforts can help make a difference. This is especially important for young people who sometimes feel discouraged that their work is not



meaningful. Many great movements began as volunteer movements and later went on to help shape national policy. The environmental movement is a good example of this, as well as many volunteer efforts to help protect endangered animals.

- 6 For many volunteers today, providing assistance to others is a way to push back against what they perceive as a growing disconnect from each other in our society. Our increased reliance on technology and our gadgets has ignited social isolation from community. Volunteering re-establishes that human connection that all of us need.



- 7 To that end, many volunteers report that by giving their time, they have experienced a greater sense of purpose. They make new friends and learn new skills themselves while doing the work required of them. More importantly, many people find that volunteering makes them feel happier in their own lives.
- 8 There is such a wide variety of volunteer opportunities available today, so why not give it a try? Start by taking the time to ask yourself what you are interested in, what skills you might have to offer, and how much time you are willing to commit. No matter how you participate, the fact is that with volunteering everyone wins.

12 The author organizes paragraph 5 by —

- F** providing examples of all the different ways people can volunteer
- G** discussing the ways people feel about volunteers who have helped them
- H** giving ideas about how you can volunteer on your own time
- J** explaining the positive effects that volunteering can have

13 Based on information in the selection, what can the reader conclude about volunteering? Select two correct answers.

- A** It can be difficult to discover places that need people to volunteer.
- B** The work that volunteers do can have long-lasting benefits for the people that they are serving.
- C** Studies have found that more people are volunteering now than ever before.
- D** It can be especially rewarding to volunteer by helping others using the skills and interests that you already have.

;

14 In which sentence does the author attempt to stir emotions in the reader?

- F** *These efforts not only help students meet community service requirements, but more importantly they can lead to an ongoing commitment to volunteer service for the rest of a student's life. (paragraph 1)*
- G** *Imagine how grateful you would feel if complete strangers volunteered their own free time just to help you. (paragraph 2)*
- H** *Many great movements began as volunteer movements and later went on to help shape national policy. (paragraph 5)*
- J** *Start by taking the time to ask yourself what you are interested in, what skills you might have to offer, and how much time you are willing to commit. (paragraph 8)*

15 Read the dictionary entry for the word develop.

develop \dih-'vel-uhp\ v
1. to evolve or generate **2.** to render a film image visible **3.** to strengthen or acquire **4.** to prepare by building necessary structures

Which definition best matches the way the word develop is used in paragraph 4?

- A** Definition 1
- B** Definition 2
- C** Definition 3
- D** Definition 4

16 What is the best summary of the selection?

- F** Many studies have been conducted to show the benefits that people experience by volunteering. Everyone who volunteers their time in some way reports that they find it to be gratifying, and they always feel happier in their own lives, as well.
- G** The best way to volunteer is to find something that you love or are already good at and then look for a way to help other people using that skill. There are many different ways to do so, including working at animal shelters, libraries, and food banks.
- H** Volunteering is a terrific way to connect with others and do something that is not so focused on technology. It can also help people feel less lonely and separate from others in their community.
- J** Volunteers gain many benefits as they spend time helping others, from learning about other worldviews to making new friends. The experience can be just as rewarding for the volunteers as it is for the people they are helping out.

17 Read this sentence from paragraph 5.

Many great movements began as volunteer movements and later went on to help shape national policy.

What does this sentence help the reader to understand?

- A** By volunteering, people are always part of something that has a nationwide impact.
- B** Most laws are written based on input from volunteer establishments and the people who run them.
- C** When people volunteer time for a project, it rarely has an impact that extends further than their own community.
- D** When a volunteer organization has enough support, sometimes laws are written to help further the cause.

18 This question has two parts. First answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

Part A

Which statement expresses the author's primary purpose for writing this selection?

- F** To explain why the reader should find volunteers if ever in need of help
 - G** To convince the reader that volunteering is a positive activity for everyone involved
 - H** To describe all the ways that people can become volunteers
 - J** To show that volunteering is the best way to feel good about yourself
-

Part B

Which of the following quotes best supports the answer in Part A?

- F** *Volunteering can be beneficial in a multitude of ways, not just for the people receiving the help, but also for the volunteers.* (paragraph 1)
- G** *When they give their time or skills, it allows them to help others in a way that they might not be able to do in a regular job or at school.* (paragraph 2)
- H** *Volunteers usually start out by choosing a field that they are already interested in or have background knowledge about.* (paragraph 4)
- J** *More importantly, many people find that volunteering makes them feel happier in their own lives.* (paragraph 7)





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