

Name: _____

Test Taking Skill: Thinking Like a Writer

Many items on standardized tests call on students to use their ability to provide examples, compare and contrast, link cause and effect, define or explain, or grasp a main idea. All these skills relate to the concepts about expository writing that your students have been practicing. To help students apply these skills to test questions, use the following items. Explain what writing-and-thinking skill the test-taker will use. After students have decided on the answer, explain, or have a student explain, why the correct answer is correct and why the three other options aren't.

Test Questions

(Some questions ask you to give examples.)

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. Which one is an example of a bird? (a)

(a) robin (b) deer (c) puppy (d) lizard

2. Which one is not an example of a shelter? (d)

(a) tent (b) house (c) cave (d) sandwich

(Some questions ask you to compare or contrast.)

3. **Night** is to **Day** as **Good** is to: (b)

(a) pretty (b) bad (c) light (d) correct

4. **High** is to **Up** as **Low** is to: (c)

(a) over (b) inside (c) down (d) around

(Some questions expect you to see cause and effect.)

5. **Happiness** brings **laughter** just as **sadness** brings (d)

(a) words (b) letters (c) rain (d) tears

6. After a blizzard, you expect to see: (a)

(a) snow banks (b) flowers (c) skateboarders (d) fires

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(Some questions ask you to define or explain something.)

7. Which one is not part of a forest? (c)

- (a) an undergrowth of shrubs and bushes
- (b) a canopy of tall trees
- (c) coral reefs and sand dunes
- (d) a variety of plants and animals

8. Which one tells about stages of growth? (b)

- (a) hands, mittens, gloves
- (b) infant, teenager, adult
- (c) ponds, lakes, rivers
- (d) sailboat, submarine, canoe

(Some questions require you to find the main idea.)

9. Read the paragraph. Write the letter of the best title. (a)

A snorkel is an easy device for breathing while your head is underwater. The snorkel tube extends above the water. You hold the mouthpiece tightly between your lips and breathe air in and out through your mouth as you swim just below the surface.

- (a) How to Use a Snorkel
- (b) Sea Life in the Ocean
- (c) Conquering Fear of Water
- (d) Ways to Survive in the Sea

10. Which idea does not belong in a report about the history of flight? (d)

- (a) early attempts at manned flight
- (b) the Wright brothers' first planes
- (c) the development of rockets
- (d) my first trip on a plane