

# ENGLISH 151A

## Revising and Proofreading

Narration Student Paragraph

From *Mosaics: Reading and Writing Paragraphs*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed.

**The following is a narrative paragraph written by a student named Robert Martinez. As you read his paragraph, try to figure out his main point. After reading the paragraph answer the questions that follow.**

(1) We started our vacation early in the morning fishing for bass. (2) We had gone to the lake so many times with our dads, and now we were there all by ourselves. (3) Boy, this was a great feeling? (4) We settled back. (5) And waited for those nibbles on my line. (6) The first sign of trouble came when the conservation officer's boat started heading toward us. (7) Suddenly, I remembered fishing licenses, a detail our dads always took care of for us. (8) We were worried, but we didn't think that anything bad would happen. (9) Except for once when I got caught cheating on a science test, I had never been in trouble before. (10) But we have several friends who get in trouble all the time. (11) The conservation officer looked serious. (12) Can you imagine our surprise when he told us we really were in trouble. (13) We were under arrest. (14) Suddenly, we weren't so excited about being on our own.

### REVISING CHECKLIST

#### Topic Sentence

1. Is there a clear topic sentence in this paragraph? If yes, which sentence is his topic sentence? If no, explain.

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2. What is Robert's implied main point in his paragraph?

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3. Write a well-developed topic sentence to introduce all of the ideas in his paragraph.

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**Development**

1. Does the paragraph contain specific details that support the implied topic sentence? Yes No
2. Does the paragraph include enough details to explain the implied topic sentence fully? Yes No
3. Does the paragraph answer all of the journalist’s questions? Record at least one detail Robert uses in response to each question.
  - a. Who? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. When? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Where? \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Why? \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. How? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Add two new details to Robert’s paragraph that support his main idea.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. What is missing from Robert’s paragraph? What more do you need to know in order to fully understand his story? List at least two places where you would like more information.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Unity**

1. Do all of the sentences in the paragraph support the topic sentence? Yes No
2. Read each of Robert’s sentences with his topic sentence (revised if necessary) in mind and list the two sentences that are not directly related to Robert’s topic sentence.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Organization**

1. Is the paragraph organized logically? Yes No
2. Read Robert’s paragraph again to see if all of the sentences are arranged logically and list four clue words/phrases from Robert’s paragraph that tell you how it is organized.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Identify Robert’s method of organization. \_\_\_\_\_

## Coherence

1. Do the sentences move smoothly and logically from one to the next? Yes No
2. List two words or phrases that Robert repeats.  

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3. Explain how one of these words or phrases makes Robert's paragraph easier to read.  

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## PROOFREADING CHECKLIST

### Sentences

#### *Subjects and Verbs*

1. Does each sentence have a main subject and verb? Yes No
2. Underline the subjects once and the verbs twice in the paragraph. Remember that sentences can have more than one subject-verb set.
3. Does each of the sentences have at least one subject and verb that can stand alone? Yes No
4. Did you find and correct Robert's fragment? If not, find and correct it now.  

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#### *Subject –Verb Agreement*

1. Do all subjects and verbs agree? Yes No
2. Read aloud the subjects and verbs you underlined in the paragraph and correct any subjects and verbs that do not agree.

#### *Pronoun Agreement*

1. Do all pronouns agree with their nouns? Yes No
2. Did you find and correct the two pronouns that do not agree with their nouns? What sentences are they located in? Correct them.  

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#### *Modifier Errors*

1. Are there any modifier errors in the paragraph? Yes No

## **Punctuation and Mechanics**

### *Punctuation*

1. Are sentences punctuated correctly? Yes      No
2. Find the fragment and make sure it is punctuated correctly.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Did you find and correct Robert's two other punctuation errors? What sentences are they in?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### *Mechanics*

1. Are words capitalized properly? Yes      No
2. Does Robert make any mistakes in capitalization? Yes      No
3. Be sure to check Robert's capitalization in the fragment.

## **Word Choice and Spelling**

### *Word Choice*

1. Are words used correctly? Yes      No

### *Spelling*

1. Are words spelled correctly? Yes      No
2. Use spell-check and a dictionary to check the spelling in Robert's paragraph.

**Now rewrite Robert's paragraph with your revision and proofreading corrections.**