

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Humanities Prep Packet

Hello!

I am Mr. Conrad, the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Humanities Instructor at Monarch Global and your future teacher. I have collected for you in this packet a selection of skills and strategies I think would be very helpful for you to be familiar with before you enter 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Please take some time to read and complete the activities. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at:

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### Section One – Annotation Skills

Annotating means to add notes that give an explanation or comment. One of our strategies for working with many kinds of literature is to annotate as we read. It helps us to **engage** deeper with the text and **slow down** as we read. It also helps us when we go back and look for specific information. Below are a few of the annotation marks you will use next year. Take a moment to review them.

Question Mark :

When you are unsure of something **OR** have a question you would like to ask about the content.



Exclamation Mark

When you find something important to the author's argument, or central idea of the content.



Wise Words

When you find an unfamiliar vocabulary word, box it and go back later to define it.



When we annotate we do three things

1. Underline the text we are examining.
2. Select the Annotation Marker
3. Leave a description in the margin about the annotation. This step is **VERY** important. It does little good to just underline and draw symbols. Without this third step the annotation is not helpful.

The article below is one in your packet about Women's Rights. Notice how I use the three annotations.

Almost 20 years ago, 189 countries agreed to work toward better lives and equal rights for women. Now as countries prepare to meet again to discuss their progress, two studies show that there is more work to be done.

? What are the studies? Who did them?

In 1995, the United Nations (U.N.) held the Fourth Annual Conference on Women in Beijing, China. The U.N. is an organization that promotes international cooperation and peace. Countries all over the world are members of the U.N.

↓ worldwide, global

In Beijing, members came up with a "Platform for Action." It was a set of goals adopted by 189 countries to improve the lives and legal rights of women and girls. The goals included making it easier for girls to go to school and ending child marriages.

These goals are important to the author's claim

Now give it a shot! Read the attached article about the history of Women's Rights. The **author's claim** is that *in the past 20 years while there have been significant steps towards equality, there is still a lot to go.*

1. Find and annotate examples of facts that support the author's claim.
2. Ask questions of the author with the question mark annotation.
3. Mark any unfamiliar words and then look them up and add them to the annotation.

## Section Two – Grammar

Grammar can be a tough thing to master. Some of us just have it, others need to work on it. The hardest part is even knowing the problem. Below are 14 sentences with the most common errors. Re-write the sentence correctly. Check your answers then read on for more instructions.

1. I have alot of work to do.
2. Be sure that you don't loose your keys like you did last week.
3. The store's in the mall have lots of toy's for sale.
4. i think that i'll get some ice cream after dinner tonight.

5. Do u want to go with me? Rly? Y not?

6. Your too smart to make grammar mistakes. Be proud of you're good grades!

7. Their are too many mistakes on papers. Students need to learn there grammar.

8. Check it, bro: I gotta go talk to dem peeps.

9. Marcia and Peter live in a nice home they have their own room I like their house

10. I should of been nicer to Peter last week. He could of helped me with my project.

11. We where going to take the car, but we didn't know were Sam left the car keys.

12. It started to rain. Making lots of puddles. I always take an umbrella. When it rains.

13. Yesterday my niece and I walk to the store. We bought some milk and talk all day.

14. Its a good thing that the cell phone has it's own music player built in!

On the next page the sentences are corrected with **bold letters**. Count up how many you got correct.

1. I have a **lot** of work to do.

**Alot is not a word.**

2. Be sure that you don't **lose** your keys like you did last week.

**Loose: means not tight   Lose: means to misplace.**

3. The **stores** in the mall have lots of **toys** for sale.

**Apostrophes show possession, not plurals**

4. I think that **I'll** get some ice cream after dinner tonight.

**Capitalize I, I'm, I'll**

5. Do **you** want to go with me? **Really? Why not?**

**Do not use texting abbreviations in writing.**

6. **You're** too smart to make grammar mistakes. Be proud of **your** good grades!

**You're: you are      Your: possession**

7. **There** are too many mistakes on papers. Students need to learn **their** grammar.

**There: something exists      Their: possession      They're: they are**

8. Check it, **brother**: I **got to** go talk to **those people**.

**Be careful using lingo/slang in writing. Not everything we say is actually a written word.**

9. Marcia and Peter live in a nice home. **They** have their own room. I like their house

**Be wary of run on sentences. A period must end sentences unless combined with a conjunction.**

10. I should **have** been nicer to Peter last week. He could **have** helped me with my project.

**Could of, would of, and should of are not correct English.**

11. We **were** going to take the car, but we didn't know **where** Sam left the car keys.

**Where: location**

**Were: past tense of are**

12. It started to rain **and made** lots of puddles. I always take an umbrella **when** it rains.

**Be wary of incomplete sentences. They must have a subject, verb and thought. Combine fragments with conjunctions for full sentences.**

13. Yesterday my niece and I **walked** to the store. We bought some milk and **talked** all day.

**Past and present tense verbs can be confusing. Make sure ALL the verbs are in the same tense.**

14. **It's** a good thing that the cell phone has **its** own music player built in!

**It's: It is**

**Its: Possession**

How did you do? If you got at least **10 of 14** correct, you're in pretty good shape. If you missed a few more than that, take a look at this youtube video below. The instructor highlights ALL these errors and explains in detail how to fix them. There is also a **second packet** that accompanies the video that you can print out and complete if you'd like. Remember, this will only help you get ahead for the coming year!

Video Link

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZgyY\\_pNyrA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZgyY_pNyrA)

Packet Download link (via Dropbox)

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/ol47se3z2xvovse/CommonErrors.pdf?dl=0>

### Section Three – Vocabulary

Acquiring new vocabulary is one of the easiest ways we can become stronger readers and writers. Below is just a selection of 7<sup>th</sup> grade level vocabulary. Look up the part of speech and definition for each one. Then use the second page to write a complete sentence that uses that word correctly

1. Abnormal (adjective) something that is not average, weird, or different
2. Agitate ( )
3. Authentic ( )
4. Bewilder ( )
5. Bigot ( )
6. Corrupt ( )
7. Capricious ( )
8. Dismal ( )
9. Endure ( )
10. Erode ( )
11. Fathom ( )
12. Homage ( )
13. Infamous ( )
14. Implore ( )
15. Lavish ( )
16. Negligent ( )
17. Ponder ( )
18. Radiant ( )
19. Subtle ( )
20. Yearn ( )

Use the space below to use each new word in a sentence. Make sure to check the part of speech and definition to ensure you are using it correctly!

1. Abnormal      Some people think it is **abnormal** that I let my dog sleep in my bed, but I just think it's cute.
2. Agitate
3. Authentic
4. Bewilder
5. Bigot
6. Corrupt
7. Capricious
8. Dismal
9. Endure
10. Erode
11. Fathom
12. Homage
13. Infamous
14. Implore
15. Lavish
16. Negligent
17. Ponder
18. Radiant
19. Subtle
20. Yearn

Congratulations! If you completed all sections you are more than ready for 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Humanities! See you soon!

Mr. Conrad

# On the road to equality, women and girls still have miles to go

By Los Angeles Times, adapted by Newsela staff on 03.15.15

Word Count **866**



People walk in the International Women's Day march for gender equality and women's rights from the United Nations to Times Square in New York City, March 8, 2015. About 1,000 people gathered to speak up for the gender that traditionally is paid less for work and often has a smaller voice in policy decisions. AP Photo/Mark Lennihan

Almost 20 years ago, 189 countries agreed to work toward better lives and equal rights for women. Now as countries prepare to meet again to discuss their progress, two studies show that there is more work to be done.

In 1995, the United Nations (U.N.) held the Fourth Annual Conference on Women in Beijing, China. The U.N. is an organization that promotes international cooperation and peace. Countries all over the world are members of the U.N.

In Beijing, members came up with a "Platform for Action." It was a set of goals adopted by 189 countries to improve the lives and legal rights of women and girls. The goals included making it easier for girls to go to school and ending child marriages.

This year, U.N. members will gather in New York to discuss women's rights once again. They will review how much progress has been made. According to two new studies, many of their goals have not been met.



## **Laws Leave Women And Girls Behind**

One study was done by the World Policy Analysis Center of the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA). It was released on Monday. It found that about 90 percent of countries still have laws and policies that give women and girls fewer rights than men and boys.

The other study came from the U.N. itself. It reviewed how much had changed in the past 20 years. Although it indicated that there has been some progress, it found that women and girls are still treated unfairly.

For example, men still have more control than women in government. Only 20 countries around the world are led by women. Although women make up about half the world's population, only about one-fifth of lawmakers are women.

## **Equality In Business 81 Years Away**

Throughout the world, women are paid less than men for doing the same work.

Progress has been slow. At the current rate, it will take about 50 years for there to be as many women in government as men, and it will take 81 years for women to participate equally in business.

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, head of the U.N. agency on women, said last week that world leaders have not done enough on this issue.

"The leaders entrusted with the power to realize the promises made in Beijing have failed women and girls," she said.

Both studies noted that some progress has been made. For example, many countries have removed laws that treated women unfairly, and many have also added laws to stop violence against women and girls.

There are other positive signs. Nearly half of all primary school students are now girls, and the number of workers who are women has grown since the 1990s. Women also have better health care.

## **Child Marriage Hurts Girls And Their Babies**

Many countries have also passed laws to keep girls from being forced to get married at a young age. Now almost every country has a law that prohibits people from marrying until they reach a certain age. The Maldives, an island nation in the Indian Ocean, passed a marriage law in 2001. The law said that people could not marry until the age of 18. Since then, there has been a big drop in the number of girls getting married between the ages of 15 and 18.

"Girls who marry young have babies young," said Jody Heymann. She is the founding director of UCLA's World Policy Analysis Center.

Having children at a young age is dangerous for women's health and their babies' health. It also reduces women's chances of finishing their education and affects their ability to earn a living.

For these reasons, the U.N. agreed to try to end child marriages. However, more than 60 countries still allow girls to be married at a younger age than boys. Researchers said that this fact helps explain why nearly five times more girls than boys get married before they turn 18.

## **New Moms In U.S. Lack Guaranteed Paid Leave**

Unfair treatment of women is not just an international problem. The two studies showed that it is a problem in the United States, too. The U.S. does not have a law guaranteeing paid leave for new mothers, for instance. Paid leave allows mothers to spend time with their newborns while still earning money from their job. The U.S. is the only wealthy country without a law that guarantees paid leave for new mothers.

In Mississippi, girls can be married at 15 with their parents' approval, but boys have to wait until they are 17. This means that girls may be expected to get married at a younger age, making it harder for them to make their own choices.

The U.S. is also one of just seven U.N. member countries that have not approved the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, a U.N. agreement that protects women's rights.

Despite the barriers, however, the UCLA study found that progress has been recorded in every region of the world and in countries at every income level.

"Clearly we have the capability to do this as a global community," Heymann said. "It's a question of whether we all focus on getting the job done."