

Middle School Writing

1/16/23

Instructions: After completing/working on each day's assignment include a parent initial signature below.

Day One/Wednesday:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Referring to the student copy of "To Build a Fire", complete the <i>quotes</i> sections of each of the three body paragraphs in the literary analysis outline begun in class. Parent Initial: _____
Day Two/Thursday:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- On a separate sheet of notebook paper complete the capitalization Exercise B handout.- Complete the <i>apostrophes quiz</i> handout. Feel free to reference your notes. Work must be original for credit. Parent Initial: _____
Day Three/Friday:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Read the second summary on the life of Jack London. (First reference reviewed in class.)- On a separate sheet of notebook paper, write down a bullet-point list of five interesting observations about Jack London's life (specifically include some of his features as a writer, to use in your LA essay.) Parent Initial: _____
Day Four/Monday:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ask a parent or guardian if you may bring a family device (laptop, chromebook, tablet, phone, etc.) to class next week, to practice formatting the literary analysis in MLA.- Complete the different sentence openers handout. Circle any challenging questions to ask questions over during the homework/questions time at the beginning of class.- Complete the grammar/correct-the-error handout copy. Parent Initial: _____

The weekly schedule has been broken down to maximize parent and student success. Parents: please oversee that student work is at individual/grade-level standard. Please sign below after checking students' daily work.

I have looked over each day's assigned work and verify its quality and completion.

Name: _____

Capitals for Proper Nouns

A proper noun is a noun that names a specific person, place, or thing.

Capitalize all proper nouns.

Names. Whenever a person's specific name is given, capital letters should be used.

Capitalize each part of a person's full name.

As the following examples show, the given or first name, the initials standing for a name, and the surname or last name all receive capital letters.

EXAMPLES: Chester Worth, Maria A. Lopez, S. D. Schneider

In some cases, surnames may consist of several parts. If a surname begins with *Mc*, or *O'*, or *St.*, the letter immediately following it also gets capitalized.

EXAMPLES: McGregor, O'Callahan, St. John

However, surnames beginning with *de*, *D'*, *la*, *le*, *Mac*, *van*, or *von* are not so consistent. The capitalization of these surnames will vary.

EXAMPLES: De Mello or de Mello
La Coe or Laco
von Hofen or Von Hofen

In these cases, ask for a spelling of the name to insure accuracy.

Capitalize the proper names of animals.

EXAMPLES: Silver, the horse; Miss Piggy, the pig

Geographical and Place Names. When writing, you will often have to refer to specific places. One group of proper nouns that must be capitalized is made up of geographical names.

Capitalize geographical names.

The chart at the top of the next page provides examples of some types of geographical names that must be capitalized.

GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES	
Streets	Stokes Avenue, Fallen Leaf Lane
Towns and Cities	Elk Grove, Salinas, Miami
Counties	Cheyenne County
States and Provinces	Idaho, Utah, Ontario
Nations	China, Nigeria
Continents	Australia, North America
Mountains	the Andes Mountains, Mount Shasta
Valleys and Deserts	Imperial Valley, Mojave Desert
Islands	the Galapagos Islands
Sections of a Country	the Northwest
Scenic Spots	Badlands of South Dakota, the Grand Canyon
Rivers and Falls	Amazon River, Bridalveil Falls
Lakes and Bays	Lake Ontario, Hudson Bay
Oceans and Seas	Indian Ocean, the Red Sea
Celestial Bodies	Pluto, the Milky Way

Two celestial bodies that are not capitalized are the moon and the sun. When you use the word *earth* as one of the planets, you should capitalize it. However, when the word *earth* is preceded by the article *the*, do not capitalize it.

EXAMPLES: The astronauts left Earth and landed on the moon.
The astronauts left the earth far behind.

Compass points also need special attention. When a compass point is used just to show direction, it is not capitalized. A specific location, on the other hand, is capitalized.

EXAMPLES: We headed northwest.
My cousin lives in the Southwest.

Another group of proper nouns that must be capitalized are place names such as the names of monuments, buildings, and meeting rooms.

Capitalize the names of monuments, buildings, and meeting rooms.

The following chart shows examples of monuments, buildings, and meeting rooms.

SPECIFIC PLACES	
Monuments and Memorials	the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial
Buildings	the Smithsonian Institution, the Superdome, the Actor's Conservatory Theater
School and Meeting Rooms	Room 20B, Laboratory C, the Oval Office

Do not capitalize the words *theater*, *hotel*, and *university* unless they are part of a proper name.

EXAMPLES: The theater is one of the oldest buildings in town.

The Fallon House Theater is in an old ghost town.

The word *room* is capitalized only if it refers to a specific room and is combined with a name, letter, or number.

EXAMPLE: The exam will be given in Room 46.

Other Proper Nouns. References to time and history also follow certain capitalization rules.

Capitalize the names of specific events and periods of time.

The following chart illustrates several categories of specific events and periods of time covered by this rule.

SPECIFIC EVENTS AND TIMES	
Historical Periods	the Stone Age
Historical Events	the War of 1812
Documents and Laws	the Gettysburg Address, the Homestead Act
Days and Months	Monday, April
Holidays and Religious Days	Labor Day, Good Friday
Special Events	the Kentucky Derby

15.1 Rules for Capitalization

Do not capitalize the seasons.

EXAMPLE: We felt a winter chill in the air.

The names of various groups are also capitalized.

Capitalize the names of various organizations, government bodies, political parties, races, nationalities, and languages.

Study the following chart to see how each of these names is capitalized.

SPECIFIC GROUPS AND LANGUAGES	
Clubs	Rotary Club, Lynbrook Speech Club, Lions Club
Organizations	League of Women Voters, American Cancer Society, United Farm Workers
Institutions	University of Miami, Marymount General Hospital, Ford Foundation
Businesses	International Business Machines, Ford Motor Company
Government Bodies	the Senate of the United States, the Houses of Parliament, Department of Defense
Political Parties	the Republicans, the Communist Party
Races	Caucasian, Mongoloid
Nationalities	American, French, Russian, Mexican
Languages	English, Spanish, French, Yiddish

When using words such as *black* or *white* to refer to race, however, do not use capitals.

Religious references make up another group of proper nouns that requires capitalization.

Capitalize references to religions, deities, and religious scriptures.

Each religion has a set of words referring to the important and sacred beliefs it holds. Although you may not be a believer in that faith, courtesy demands that references to each religion

be capitalized. The major religious groups you are likely to refer to in your writing include Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Islam, and Hinduism. A partial list of words from these faiths is given below.

CHRISTIANITY: God, the Lord, the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, the books of the Bible (Exodus, Mark, Romans)

JUDAISM: God, the Lord, the Prophets (Moses, Abraham), the Tora, the Talmud

EASTERN RELIGIONS: Buddhism (Buddha, the Tripitaka); Islam (Allah, the Koran); Hinduism (Brahma, the Vedas)

This list is not complete. Other religious references that you encounter must also be capitalized. These include any pronoun references made to the deity in Christian or Jewish writings.

EXAMPLE: Praise be to the Lord, for He made all things in heaven and on earth.

The only time that religious references are not capitalized occurs when writing about mythological gods and goddesses. Although the proper names of gods and goddesses are capitalized, the words *god* and *goddess* are not.

EXAMPLES: the god Pluto, the goddess Athena

Special awards and presentations are often named after people. Even when they are not, awards and presentations should be capitalized.

Capitalize the names of awards.

Notice in the following examples that the word *the* is not capitalized.

EXAMPLES: the Kevin E. Morris Scholarship; the Nobel Peace Prize; the Academy Awards; the Oscar; Eagle Scout

Another group of names requiring capitalization includes the names of air, sea, space, and land craft.

Capitalize the names of specific types of air, sea, space, and land craft.

15.1 Rules for Capitalization

When capitalizing the names of air, sea, space, and land craft, do not capitalize the word *the* preceding a name unless the word is part of the official name.

AIR: Boeing 747

SPACE: *Sputnik I*

SEA: *Lusitania*

LAND: the Model T

As a writer, you will also write the names of products.

Capitalize brand names.

This rule applies both to brand names used as adjectives and to full trademark names. If the full trademark name is used, all the words in the name are considered a proper noun and should be capitalized.

EXAMPLES: a Honda import
the Honda Accord

EXERCISE B: Using Capitals in Sentences with Proper Nouns. Copy the following sentences, adding the missing capitals.

EXAMPLE: We read a poem by edna st. vincent millay.
We read a poem by Edna St. Vincent Millay.

1. After hearing the news, the united nations called a meeting of the security council.
2. Illustrators of children's books all hope to win the coveted caldecott award.
3. Anyone who loves animal stories should read about the horse known as flicka.
4. Most people in india are hindus and worship brahma.
5. One goddess in mythology that you will read about often is the goddess hera.
6. As he made a purchase from the store called stamp house, inc., I noticed that the russian spoke english very well.
7. If you want passport information, you should contact the state department in washington, d.c.
8. My timex is now ten years old but still works.
9. The concorde crosses the atlantic ocean in just a few hours.
10. We inducted sixty new members into the national honor society at our school last week.

Name: _____

Apostrophes
Quiz

Instructions: Respond to the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Write an original sentence that includes an apostrophe.
2. When is an apostrophe used?
3. In the following sentence, is the word with the apostrophe a contraction or a possessive?
I'll be running home after the meet.
4. Write a sentence that includes an apostrophe because it is a contraction if you wrote a possessive in *question one* above. If you already wrote a sentence with a contraction for number one, write a sentence with an apostrophe that represents a possessive.

Jack London

American author

Also known as: John Griffith Chaney

Written and fact-checked by

The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica

Last Updated: Jan 8, 2024

Jack London (born January 12, 1876, San Francisco, California, U.S.—died November 22, 1916, Glen Ellen, California) American novelist and short-story writer whose best-known works—among them *The Call of the Wild* (1903) and *White Fang* (1906)—depict elemental struggles for survival. During the 20th century he was one of the most extensively translated of American authors.

Deserted by his father, a roving astrologer, he was raised in Oakland, California, by his spiritualist mother and his stepfather, whose surname, London, he took. At age 14 he quit school to escape poverty and gain adventure. He explored San Francisco Bay in his sloop, alternately stealing oysters or working for the government fish patrol. He went to Japan as a sailor and saw much of the United States as a hobo riding freight trains and as a member of Charles T. Kelly's industrial army (one of the many protest armies of the unemployed, like Coxey's Army, that was born of the financial panic of 1893). London saw depression conditions, was jailed for vagrancy, and in 1894 became a militant socialist.

London educated himself at public libraries with the writings of Charles Darwin, Karl Marx, and Friedrich Nietzsche, usually in popularized forms. At 19 he crammed a four-year high school course into one year and entered the University of California, Berkeley, but after a year he quit school to seek a fortune in the Klondike gold rush. Returning the next year, still poor and unable to find work, he decided to earn a living as a writer.

London studied magazines and then set himself a daily schedule of producing sonnets, ballads, jokes, anecdotes, adventure stories, or horror stories, steadily increasing his output. The optimism and energy with which he attacked his task are best conveyed in his autobiographical novel *Martin Eden* (1909). Within two years, stories of his Alaskan adventures began to win acceptance for their fresh subject matter and virile force. His first book, *The Son of the Wolf: Tales of the Far North* (1900), a collection of short stories that he had previously published in magazines, gained a wide audience.



During the remainder of his life, London wrote and published steadily, completing some 50 books of fiction and nonfiction in 17 years. Although he became the highest-paid writer in the United States at that time, his earnings never matched his expenditures, and he was never freed of the urgency of writing for money. He sailed a ketch to the South Pacific, telling of his adventures in *The Cruise of the Snark* (1911). In 1910 he settled on a ranch near Glen Ellen, California, where he built his grandiose Wolf House. He maintained his socialist beliefs almost to the end of his life.

Jack London's output, typically hastily written, is of uneven literary quality, though his highly romanticized stories of adventure can be compulsively readable. His Alaskan novels *The Call of the Wild* (1903), *White Fang* (1906), and *Burning Daylight*

(1910), in which he dramatized in turn atavism, adaptability, and the appeal of the wilderness, are outstanding. His short story "To Build a Fire" (1908), set in the Klondike, is a masterly depiction of humankind's inability to overcome nature; it was reprinted in 1910 in the short-story collection *Lost Face*, one of many such volumes that London published. In addition to *Martin Eden*, he wrote two other autobiographical novels of considerable interest: *The Road* (1907) and *John Barleycorn* (1913). Other important novels are *The Sea-Wolf* (1904), which features a Nietzschean superman hero, Humphrey Van Weyden, who battles the vicious Wolf Larsen; and *The Iron Heel* (1908), a fantasy of the future that is a terrifying anticipation of fascism.

London's reputation declined in the United States in the 1920s, when a new generation of writers made the pre-World War I writers seem lacking in sophistication. But his popularity remained high throughout the world after World War II, especially in Russia, where a commemorative edition of his works published in 1956 was reported to have been sold out in five hours. A three-volume set of his letters, edited by Earle Labor et al., was published in 1988.

Conventions and Style: Variety in Sentence Beginnings

To avoid monotony in your sentences, use a variety of structures, lengths, and beginnings.

You can vary the beginnings of your sentences in a number of ways. The following chart illustrates a variety of sentence beginnings.

Subject	The elephant destroyed a hut, a cow, and a van in its rage.
Prepositional phrase	In its rage, the elephant destroyed a hut, a cow, and a van.
Participle	Enraged, the elephant destroyed a hut, a cow, and a van.
Adverb	Angrily, the elephant destroyed a hut, a cow, and a van.
Infinitive	To shoot the elephant was not what Orwell wanted to do.
Subordinate clause	As the elephant raged through the town, it destroyed a hut, a cow, and a van.

You may also invert normal sentence order so that the verb comes before the subject.

Normal Order (subject before verb): The elephant was eating grass in the field.

Inverted Order: There was the elephant eating grass in the field.

Writing and Speaking Conventions

A. Writing Write sentences beginning with the following words or phrases.

1. With insults
2. Gideon
3. Followed
4. As he had always done
5. Carefully

Example: With insults

Sentence: With insults, the fans showed their dislike of the English.

B. Speaking Think of a conflict between two groups that you have read or heard about. Write and present to the class a headline and a brief news story to explain the conflict. Use at least three different kinds of sentence beginnings and one sentence with inverted order.

Practice Rewrite each sentence to begin with the item indicated in parentheses.

1. With gifts of chickens and flowers, the servants showed their delight in the baby. (subject)
2. Teddy, laughing, enjoyed being tossed in the air in play. (participle)
3. Respected and loved, Gideon was a valued servant. (subject)
4. Teddy sped around the homestead riding his scooter. (participle)
5. Shrieking with pain, Teddy staggered into the kitchen. (subject)
6. The plants held valuable secrets in their leaves, roots, and bark. (prepositional phrase)
7. A wind was blowing grit in their faces. (inverted order)
8. Gideon said he didn't remember to avoid answering the questions. (infinitive)
9. The crowd yelled loudly and laughed at Orwell. (adverb)
10. The crowd was behind as he pursued the elephant. (subordinate clause)

Name: _____

WEEK 3: Bigger, Higher, Faster, and Me

Instructions: Rewrite the following sentences, correcting the errors listed.

■ Verb (Irregular), Apostrophe (Possessives), Spelling

My heart sinked when I heard the judge anounce my opponents name as the winner.

■ Using the Right Word, Comma (Addresses), Plurals, Period

The record for the quickest, natural berth of triplets is held by Mrs James Duck of Memphis Tennessee who's three babys arrived in three minutes!

■ Numbers, Hyphen (Single-Thought Adjectives), Comma Splice

Jim Carrey is one of the highest paid entertainers, he earns more than 10,000,000 dollars per movie.

■ Adjective (Articles and Comparative/Superlative), Abbreviations

The most large airport in the world is the Saudi Arabian King Khalid International, which covers a area of 86 sq. mi.

■ Comma (Addresses), Capitalization, Apostrophe (Possessives)

aunt juanitas address is 230 pleasant lane oceanview california.