# WEAK WRITING: REVISING WRITING TO MAKE STRONGER SENTENCES

**Directions:** Read the sample of student writing in the box. Look carefully for mistakes. Edit the sample text. Follow the step-by-step directions to rewrite the weak paragraph into a stronger one. This will include revising some sentences to form COMPOUND and COMPLEX sentences. It will also include revising for other grammatical errors.

Weak Writing Sample #1:

(1) In the novel *Holes* written by Louis Sachar. (2) The main character is Stanley Yelnats. (3) Stanley becomes friends with a nimble boy named Zero. (4) Zero is a quiet boy that none of the others seem to know anything about. (5) Zero doesn't make conversation with anyone accept for Stanley. (6) These two incredible characters stay hand-in-hand throughout the book.

1) Combine the first three sentences. Be sure to revise the dependent clause (fragment) to make a COMPLEX sentence.
2) Revise sentences 4 and 5 into one well-written sentence.
3) Revise the last sentence (6) by making it into a COMPLEX sentence beginning with a coordinating conjunction.
4) Edit and revise the underlined GRAMMATICAL ERROR. Circle your change.
5) Edit and revise the "NO EXCUSES" spelling mistake in sentence 5. Circle your change.

Rewrite the paragraph on the lines below. Be sure to follow EACH of the numbered steps.

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Weak Writing Sample #2:

(1) In the novel *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls describes what it <u>was</u> like for a young boy to grow up on a farm and struggle with being poor. (2) Billy, the main character, shows the reader that when you work hard you can achieve your goals. (3) You can also overcome challenges. (4) Billy really wants two hound dogs and works extremely hard to <u>get</u> the money. (5) His family can't afford them. (6) When he <u>gets</u> enough money he gives it to his grandpa. (7) His grandpa <u>bought</u> the dogs for him.

1) Sentence one currently does not make sense. Revise it and rewrite it as a well-written COMPLEX sentence. Be sure to add correct PUNCTUATION.
2) Notice the underlined error in VERB TENSE. Revise the word. Make it present tense. Circle your change.
3) Combine sentences (2) and (3) into a COMPOUND sentence using an appropriate coordinating conjunction.
4) Do not use the word YOU (second person) in formal writing. Revise the "you's" and write in the THIRD PERSON. (hint: use "one," "a person," "an individual")
5) Combine sentences (4) and (5) either into a COMPOUND sentence or a COMPLEX sentence.
6) Remove the DEAD WORD "get" from sentences (4) and (6). Replace the word or rephrase the sentence to use stronger vocabulary. Circle the new word.
7) Combine sentences (6) and (7) into a COMPOUND sentence.
8) In sentence (7), revise the VERB TENSE of the underlined word. Circle your change.

Rewrite the paragraph on the lines below. Be sure to follow EACH of the numbered steps.

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