

Rhetorical Grammar for Expository Reading and Writing
Editing Pretest

Employers and teachers expect you to be able to edit your writing for common errors. In order to improve your editing skills, you need to discover what you know and what you are still not sure about. This pretest will help you see whether or not you recognize common errors. You don't need to know formal grammar or labels; you just need to identify correct and incorrect sentences.

Directions: Read each item carefully, and then write either **C (Correct)** in the blank if you think it is correct or **X (Not correct)** if you think something is not right. Here is a sample:

X The State Police of Oklahoma did not have a legitimate reason to pull the driver over, therefore they let him go after they searched his whole car and cuffed him. (*Not correct—This is a run-on sentence; it contains two independent clauses, and they cannot be combined using only a comma.*)

- _____ 1. Take nothing for granted and live every day to its fullest.
- _____ 2. That is wrong.
- _____ 3. Because in America today everyone does an equal amount of work.
- _____ 4. Many people think of Chris McCandless as an inspiration.
- _____ 5. While others believed he was crazy.
- _____ 6. Juveniles that commit these crimes are not normal teenagers, they are monsters and should be placed in the adult system.
- _____ 7. The police believe that judging people by the way they look will solve their problem in the search for terrorists; however, it is also putting other people's lives in jeopardy.
- _____ 8. In Hamlet's soliloquy, he neglected to consider what effect his life had on his family and friends, Hamlet thought of his own life as worthless and thought everyone else did too.
- _____ 9. Racial profiling is intended for a good reason, which is to find suspected terrorists, however it is unconstitutional to pick on someone just because of their color."
- _____ 10. It might have felt romantic to him to draw his own map, but he was staying in a bus, so it seems pretty clear to me that somebody else had been there already.
- _____ 11. We can do a lot for food production by preparing our own food, learn the origins of our food, and learn what is involved in the best farming.
- _____ 12. Age is the difference between maturity and foolishness, between knowledge and ignorance, and between self-control and irrationality.
- _____ 13. Sentenced to a lifetime of imprisonment on account of murder, tears filled the eyes of the fourteen year old and his family.
- _____ 14. Joining the prevailing political party would increase their knowledge, enabling them to grow and step forward.

- _____ 15. Through whining for that toy in a kid's meal, the parent is pressured to go to a fast food place.
- _____ 16. I agree with Barker that juveniles who murder someone with intent is a threat to our society.
- _____ 17. Anything Hamlet truly valued, such as his father and Ophelia, were taken from him.
- _____ 18. Time-outs and taking away privileges is the best way to begin discipline, but a loving parent is willing to bring harder disciplinary action to a child that is non-responsive.
- _____ 19. Today's generation of Chinese women doesn't follow these rules, but these women still do things to help out the family and respect their husbands.
- _____ 20. Companies like Abercrombie & Fitch and people like Marshall Cohen believe that having pretty girls in their stores will bring in the men.
- _____ 21. Gerald was interrogated and searched without permission.
- _____ 22. If Chris was crazy, he could of been helped, but I believe he was mostly foolish and angry.
- _____ 23. Two hours have passed and no arrest was made, so the patrol agents told Rossano and Greg that they were free to go.
- _____ 24. No matter what age they are they should be punish as an adult.
- _____ 25. When you prepared you own food, you know what you put in it.
- _____ 26. She was driving her aunt's car on vacation last summer when the cops pulled her over, and wrote her a speeding ticket.
- _____ 27. Mr. Weintraub wrote this particular piece with one intention; to educate the readers with his own views.
- _____ 28. Although juveniles are not as accountable or competent as adults, that cannot be an excuse for vicious, life threatening behavior.
- _____ 29. I also agree with Herbert that profiling has a demoralizing effect on it's victims.
- _____ 30. Parents are not solely responsible for childhood obesity; schools, fast food companies and the government also need to take action against childhood obesity.
- _____ 31. If small children were asked to define death, most of them would not be able to do so.
- _____ 32. All throughout school you hear things like "just say no" and watch video's of people who have used a controlled substance and are now vegetables.
- _____ 33. If someone pushed or led someone to do a crime, then they should be the ones with a greater punishment.
- _____ 34. When Kenny showed the king the picture of a women, the king was disgusted.

- _____ 35. Another possibility is that me and my family can improve our diet by preparing our own food.
- _____ 36. In his article, Get Tough on Juvenile Crimes, James Barker talks about what responsibility juveniles have for the crimes they commit and how tough the punishment for them should be.
- _____ 37. Someone once said, “You should not fear death, but fear the unlived life”.
- _____ 38. Shaun Callarman says Chris McCandless was “bright and ignorant at the same time.”
- _____ 39. Callarman states, “He had no common sense, and he had no business going into Alaska with his romantic silliness.”
- _____ 40. As Tannen says, as a woman, you want to be, “happily connected to others whose wants are the same as yours.”

Directions: Indicate whether the sentences in the following paragraph are **correct (C)** or not **correct (X)** by writing either **(C)** or **(X)** in the blank before the sentence.

- _____ 41. (41) Slowly the “everyone’s a winner” mentality is dominating everything kids
- _____ 42. do. (42) Most little league sports, competitions, etc. (43) While it might seem
- _____ 43. fair to give everyone a prize for trying, it’s really not. (44) By rewarding everyone
- _____ 44. with participation trophies it doesn’t drive kids to want to win, why bother if we
- _____ 45. all get the same trophy? (45) If this merit system was instilled in real-life jobs it
- _____ 46. would be ridiculous. (46) If someone came into work, they wouldn’t expect a
- _____ 47. raise just for showing up. (47) The real truth is that not everyone’s a winner.
- _____ 48. (48) If all Jimmy does on the soccer field was pick flowers, he doesn’t deserve
- _____ 49. the same recognition as Joey who scores two goals. (49) School is another big
- _____ 50. problem. (50) After giving out easy grades, all these kids with “A’s” or “B’s” leave high school and find out things aren’t as easy in college as they thought they would be.

To calculate your score, count the number of answers that you missed, multiply it by two, and subtract that number from 100:

Number missed: _____ X 2 = _____

100 - _____ (number missed X 2) = _____ %