

Assignment 74

Post-writing

25



A

Take some time to revise your work. Look over your writing carefully and edit anything that might be formulated in an unclear way as well as spelling and grammar errors.

B

Exchange essays with another student and provide each other with feedback. Use the feedback sheet you can find on bit.ly/wr-editing.

C

When you have received the feedback, use it to revise your essay into a final draft.



Web task

Do you want to find out more about the topic of the article? Go to www.waspreporter.nl for a web task.

Can't change your mind ★★★★★

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Reading • Exam Training • Language Organiser • Writing

Assignment 75

Pre-reading

5



- 1 When you see the title 'Can't change your mind', what thoughts spring to mind? Do you sometimes change your mind? How often, if ever? When / under what circumstances?
- 2 Compare your mind-boggling thoughts with those of the razor-sharp minds of your classmates.
- 3 What do you think the article will be about, also taking into account the subtitles and illustrations?

Assignment 76

Exam Training

30



Your teacher will give you the multiple-choice questions that go with this article.

Assignment 77

Language Organiser

10

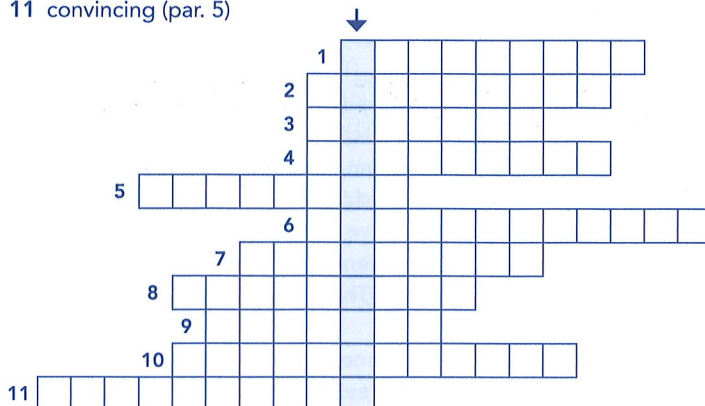


A

Find the correct words in the text and fill in the puzzle.

- 1 ancestors (paragraph 9)
- 2 ready to believe especially on slight or uncertain evidence (par. 7)
- 3 opposite (par. 5)

- 4 serving to discourage, prevent, or inhibit (par. 9)
- 5 offering reasonable grounds for being believed (par. 5)
- 6 leaning to one side (par. 8)
- 7 quarrels over petty matters (par. 10)
- 8 involving or exposing someone to risk (par. 11)
- 9 adverse (par. 5)
- 10 a tendency to a particular aspect, state, character, or action (plural) (par. 10)
- 11 convincing (par. 5)



... is the best option.

B

Fill in the gaps with words from A.

- 1 Too many people are ... enough to believe your story.
- 2 Actually, I thought it was a(n) ... account of the accident.
- 3 It is always ... to ride a bike blindfolded.
- 4 Agreed, that is a(n) ... argument.

Assignment 78

Reading

10



The experiment that started off a whole host of studies to confirm confirmation bias is the one described below. However, the paragraphs / sentences have become jumbled. The assignment is to put them into the correct order.

- a As is often the case with psychological studies, the whole setup was a put-on. Though half the notes were indeed genuine – they'd been obtained from the Los Angeles County coroner's office – the scores were fictitious. The students who'd been told they were almost always right were, on average, no more discerning than those who had been told they were mostly wrong.
- b At this point, something curious happened. The students in the high-score group said that they thought they had, in fact, done quite well – significantly better than the average student – even though, as they'd just been told, they had zero grounds for believing this.
- c Conversely, those who'd been assigned to the low-score group said that they thought they had done significantly worse than the average student – a conclusion that was equally unfounded.
- d Finally, the students were asked to estimate how many suicide notes they had actually categorised correctly, and how many they thought an average student would get right.

- e In 1975, researchers at Stanford invited a group of undergraduates to take part in a study about suicide. They were presented with pairs of suicide notes. In each pair, one note had been composed by a random individual, the other by a person who had subsequently taken his own life. The students were then asked to distinguish between the genuine notes and the fake ones.
- f In the second phase of the study, the deception was revealed. The students were told that the real point of the experiment was to gauge their responses to thinking they were right or wrong. (This, it turned out, was also a deception.)
- g 'Once formed,' the researchers observed dryly, 'impressions are remarkably perseverant.'
- h Some students discovered that they had a genius for the task. Out of twenty-five pairs of notes, they correctly identified the real one twenty-four times. Others discovered that they were hopeless. They identified the real note in only ten instances.
- i This Stanford study became famous. Coming from a group of academics in the nineteen-seventies, the contention that people can't think straight was shocking. It isn't any longer. Thousands of subsequent experiments have confirmed (and elaborated on) this finding.

Assignment 79

Language Organiser

10 ⌚



So far, the texts have been about changing your mind, or rather not changing your mind even though the facts point a different way. Below you will find **collocations** to do with *change*.

<i>collocations with the verb change</i>	to change places, seats, jobs, schools, doctors, a subject, the beds, the baby, your clothes
<i>collocations indicating small changes</i>	adopt a new approach have clothes altered make adjustments / alterations / modifications make amendments
<i>collocations indicating major changes</i>	break / kick a habit convert to revolutionise transform
<i>change + adverbs</i>	abruptly, completely, dramatically, drastically, fundamentally, gradually, immediately, irrevocably, radically, rapidly, significantly, slightly, slowly, substantially, subtly, unpredictably

Complete the sentences, using collocations from the list above. You may have to change their forms in order for them to fit the sentence.

- 1 Do you want to ... before we go to the opera?
- 2 The Internet has ... the way people do research.
- 3 The City of London has ... to the parking problem.

- 4 He used to be a Socialist, but now he ... his views and calls himself a LibDem.
- 5 Whenever Tarzan talks about marriage, Jane ...
- 6 AA helps alcoholics who want to ...
- 7 Her grandparents ... to Christianity in the previous century.
- 8 The tailor ... some last-minute ... to the dress.
- 9 It's your turn to ... – there are some nappies in the bathroom.
- 10 The first ten ... to the US Constitution are called the Bill of Rights.

Assignment 80

Writing

80 ⌚



If there were one thing in this world that you could change, what would it be? Express your thoughts on the matter in any form you like. Anything goes: from lyrics to a letter to the President, to an argumentative essay, to a sonnet. Make sure you tackle your subject matter in such a way that you set people thinking.

Step 1

Do research on different kinds of writing and their characteristics. Make an informed decision on what kind of writing you would like to produce.

Step 2

Write, bearing in mind the characteristics of the particular genre you chose.

Step 3

Put your work aside for a few days and reread it, changing words and phrases as you see fit. You may even want to rearrange or erase whole paragraphs. This editing process will only make your work better, even if it takes up some time.

Step 4

Show your work to one of your classmates and read his / her work to see how they dealt with the assignment. Ask for and give feedback, both on contents and on language.

Step 5

Rewrite your work and hand it in.