Write It Better — Answer Key

Sample answers. Many questions have more than one good answer; look for the skill, not these exact words.

Part A · Spot the Parts

1. 1 T · 2 E · 3 E · 4 X · 5 X · 6 L

Sentence 5 includes a fact but mainly explains why the evidence matters; accept E with a good reason.

2. Examples: grades or attendance at a school before and after it moved to a later start; a quote from a student or teacher at such a school; how many hours of sleep teens need.

Part B · Strong Thesis or Weak?

3. a. W: It names a topic but makes no claim.
b. W: It is a fact; no one would argue with it.
c. S: Specific, arguable, and it previews two reasons.
d. W: Too vague: bad how, and for whom?
e. S: Specific and arguable, and it answers the other side.

4. Sample: "Video games are bad" → **"Playing video games late on school nights hurts teenagers' sleep and grades."** A strong rewrite names a specific, arguable position.

Part C · Hook 'Em

5–6. Samples:
Question: **"What if the secret to finishing your homework was already in your earbuds?"**
Short scene: **"The room is so quiet that every pencil tap sounds like a drum solo."**
Bold statement: **"Silence is overrated."**

Facts and quotations must be real; students should not invent statistics.

Part D · Five Moves

1. **"Trays clattered, someone yelled across three tables, and I had to lean in to hear the friend sitting next to me."**

2. **"The red pickup roared down Main Street."**

3. **"Students need enough sleep."**

4. **"My husky loves snow."** or **"I have a husky who loves snow."**

5. **However** · **As a result** (also: For this reason, Therefore)

Part E · Fix It

a. **They're going to the library.** [their / they're]
b. **The team lost its final game.** [its / it's]
c. **I was tired, so I went to bed early.** (or use a semicolon or two sentences) [comma splice]
d. **Because the power went out, we read by flashlight.** (any complete sentence) [fragment]
e. **Jordan and I finished early.** [pronoun]
f. **Each of the students has a locker.** [subject–verb agreement]

Writing Challenge · Quick Scoring Guide

Check the word count first: exactly 100 shows the student revised. Then score:

Score	What it looks like
4	Strong hook, clear main idea, two or more specific details, each explained; smooth transitions; vivid word choice; few errors.
3	All parts are there; some details are general or under-explained; minor errors.
2	Main idea is unclear or details are thin; little explanation; errors get in the way.
1	Missing several parts, off the prompt, or far from 100 words.