Possible Answers for *Successful College Writing*, Sixth Edition – Chapter 4

Ex 4.1
1. A reasonable inference is that the author thinks Americans are annoying, aggressive, and uncultured.
2. Some phrases that show the author's attitude: "people who will not shut their inane traps," "lord help us," "ringtones that no one else wants to hear," "[w]e love . . . stunningly predictable results," and "[w]e . . . love shows where people lie to others."
3. Details might include: people talking during theater, talking on their cell phones rather than to the person who is with them, watching lowbrow television shows.

Ex 4.2
1. Missing information: "Less fat" than what — a previous recipe for the same cookies or a different cookie? What is "trans fat"? Evidence needed: an explanation of the term "less fat" and an objective definition of "trans fat."
2. Missing information: What are the conflicts of interest? Who accused him? Evidence needed: news reports that give facts about Smith.
3. Missing information: Who wrote the review? What words are missing? Evidence needed: factual information about the Gold Rush.

Ex 4.3
1. O
2. F
3. F
4. O
5. O

Ex 4.4
1. *Statement of fact*: "More Americans turned out for the 2008 presidential election than any other election." *Statement of opinion*: "Voters should participate in all local elections."
2. *Statement of fact*: "In large-scale power production, wind turbines are more efficient than solar modules." *Statement of opinion*: "Wind power is a better investment than solar power."
3. *Statement of fact:* "Snow fell at the 1982 and 2006 Super Bowl games." *Statement of opinion*: "The Super Bowl is more fun to watch when it's snowing."

Ex 4.5
1. Positive: *discriminating*; negative: *picky*
2. Positive: *thrifty*; negative: *tight*
3. Positive: *slender*; negative: *skinny*
4. Positive: *assertive*; negative: *brash*
5. Positive: *stride*; negative: *Shuffle*

Ex 4.6
1. Simile; tone could be bemused or horrified, depending on the context; "ungainly struggle" and "huge awkward chicken, torn, squawking" create the impression that the person is not quite human.
2. Simile; tone is descriptive, cautionary; the phrase "like antelope fleeing before fire on the slope" links with "red rages" to create a sense of foreboding.
3. Simile; tone is lofty, formal; "summer's day," "temperate" convey the impression of sensuous beauty.

Ex 4.7

1. *Illegal alien* sounds more negative; *undocumented immigrant* — more neutral. *Illegal* emphasizes breaking the law and *alien* sounds a bit scary, while *undocumented* sounds neutral and *immigrant* even a little positive. *Undocumented immigrant* is euphemistic in that the person has documents but for another country: they have not been granted entry to the country they are in.

2. Euphemisms and doublespeak are often used to describe violent political conflicts, such as *casualty* (someone killed or injured), *collateral damage* (civilians who have been killed or injured unintentionally), *surgical strike* (so-called precision bombing), and *asymmetrical warfare* (surprise attacks). (See also the Cato Institute paper (2006) "Doublespeak and the War on Terror" by Timothy Lynch.) Business also frequently uses doublespeak to disguise firings (*downsizing, smartsizing*) or other unpopular decisions (*outsourcing, hiring replacement workers*).

Ex 4.8

1. *Tone*: angry, indignant; *key words*: "deaths," "innocent," "mercilessly slaughtered," "quest"
2. *Tone*: angry, frustrated; *key words*: "personal apology to every person," "without errors," "manual typewriter"
3. *Tone*: informative, worried; *key words*: "threaten,"
"urgent need"
4. *Tone*: condescending, earnest; *key words*: "only," "fully"

Ex 4.9

Examples: *Outraged:* "Every citizen in this city should protest the destruction of an entire block of historic buildings to build upscale condominiums." *Joyful:* "At last, this city can celebrate the replacement of broken-down eyesores with respectable, useful, beautiful housing." *Nostalgic:* "Soon every building on one of the oldest blocks in the city will be relegated to memory in the name of progress."

Ex 4.10

1. The writer assumes that all computer users have the same needs and expectations at all times.
2. The writer assumes knowledge of the EPA's intentions.
3. The writer assumes that a single action done universally will solve a complex problem; the writer does not define terms and assumes that readers will share that undefined definition.
4. The writer assumes that group behavior constitutes a valid reason for future policy.
5. The writer assumes a causal relationship exists because the two things are thematically related.

Ex 4.11

Schwartz assumes that readers have the literary knowledge to understand his allusions to Dickens but also that readers are not sticklers for formal language ("screw him"). He assumes that his readers are politically correct or at least sensitive to that concept, but he also assumes that they are not in "minority groups, the disabled, and the disadvantaged" because he writes about "the feelings of" those groups. He assumes that his readers have enough money to own cars, computers, and cell phones. Finally, he assumes his readers will agree with him because he refers to them repeatedly as "we."

Ex 4.12

1. G
2. F
3. F
4. G

5. G

Ex 4.13
1. *Possible omissions*: window of time for the offer, grounds that the restaurant's burger is the reader's "favorite," what hidden qualifications there are for the price
2. *Possible omissions*: the APR (annual percentage rate of interest), qualifications needed to be eligible for the card, other information (personal, financial) that will be requested, hidden fees
3. *Possible omissions*: commitment required to obtain the deal, monthly or annual fee, cost of shipping and handling

Ex 4.14
Answers will vary.

Ex 4.15
1. *Qualifications*: Oremus is Slate.com's technology staff writer. We can assume he is knowledgeable about technological trends, but not that he is an expert.
2. *Types of evidence*: Personal experience (paras. 2 and 8–12), scientific studies (paras. 3–4 and 7). Students might argue that Oremus also uses data and statistics, but they are used minimally and are part of the studies he summarizes.
3. *Some inferences*: Oremus: "The ultimate stealth power, of course, is invisibility" (para. 8), "Powers that inherently violate other people's autonomy . . . lend themselves to abuse" (para. 9). Researcher (Rosenberg): "acquiring a superpower can spark benevolent tendencies" (para. 5), "people behave far better when they think they're being watched" (para. 7).
4. *Positive connotations:* "Enhancement, "enable," "transcend," "morality," "evolved" (para. 10); *negative connotations*: "heightened," "risks," "constraints," "taken for granted," "drones," "enable," "evolved," "panic," "mind-reading" (para. 10). Some words may be seen as positive or negative depending on the reader's opinion of human enhancement technology.
5. *Tone*: Answers will vary, but the tone is generally informative, conversational, philosophical.
6. *Main assumption*: "In reality, though, most people possess the capacity for both good and evil. Which one wins out at any given time depends not only on our genes and our upbringing, but the circumstances in which we find ourselves" (para. 2).
7. *Sample generalizations*: "Give someone Superman's abilities, and she'll start to behave a little more like Superman" (para. 5), "Other powers, like supreme intelligence, time travel, and indestructibility, are morality-agnostic and could be employed equally for good or ill" (para. 9).
8. *Additional information needed*: Information about the human-enhancement technologies to which Oremus refers — what are they? how likely are they to convey superpowers? what is a superpower?
9. Answers will vary.

Ex 4.16
1. Answers will vary. 2. Group of young women celebrating their graduation from college. Photograph is a medium-distance shot, showing mainly the four women in the front row, so details about the other women in the background are hidden.
3. Caption indicates that college graduates have far greater lifetime earnings than those who do not graduate from college.
4. Photo may have been included to convince first-year students that graduating is worth the effort. Assumptions and biases might include an assumption that more women than men graduate, or at least

would be more likely to cheer about it, and a bias that young women make more appealing subjects for photos.

5. The photo is possibly cropped from a larger one, cutting out graduates who were not cheering; the background might have been blurred or darkened to emphasize the front row; and shadows on the front row might have been lightened to create a more uniform light or to reveal the faces.

6. Answers will vary.

Ex 4.17
Answers will vary.

Ex 4.18
Answers will vary.

Ex 4.19
1. The variables are the figures on the y-axis (vertical axis). The data used were the numbers in the "Internet use anywhere" column.
2. A possible title would be, "Internet Use Anywhere, by Age."
3. A possible caption would be, "As of 2011, use of the Internet anywhere, in both home and public places, drops off markedly for people over 55 years old."