

## Possible Answers for *Successful College Writing, Sixth Edition* – Chapter 6

### Ex 6.1

1. This is an assertion, but a weak one since very few people would argue with it. Replacing *can* with *will* makes the statement more assertive.
2. Statement of fact. A more assertive statement would be “Pictures of the devastation in the Philippines following Typhoon Haiyan allowed people around the globe to participate emotionally in the tragedy, providing catharsis.”
3. This is an assertion, but it is a weak one, due to the word *might*. Replacing *might* with *will* makes the statement more assertive.
4. Assertion.
5. Statement of fact. A more assertive statement would be “Taking care of family pets will develop children’s nurturing instincts, enabling them to care for other animals.”

### Ex 6.2

1. Too general: With the filler words deleted, the statement is “Discrimination exists.” A more specific statement would be “Despite progress, gender discrimination still prevents women from being promoted, as a look at Fortune 500 companies will prove.”
2. Probably specific enough for a brief essay, though the phrases “demands of my job” and “relationship with my family” need to be defined.
3. Like sentence 2, this might be specific enough for a brief essay as long as the phrases “experience of living in a dorm,” “opportunities,” and “valuable people skills” are defined. A more specific statement would be “Living with roommates forces students to learn negotiating skills that they will be able to use in their careers.”
4. Too general. A more specific statement would be “Tornados can destroy a small town’s infrastructure, leading to the town’s economic collapse.”
5. Specific enough for a brief essay.

### Ex 6.3

1. In order to be more successful in college, students must learn to balance work and school obligations.
2. The Internet has revolutionized the way people communicate, but it has also made people more solitary.
3. In order to attract viewers to new releases, movie theaters choose to show films with graphic violence.
4. Although the tornado seriously injured hundreds of people, the local townspeople grew closer as they tended to the injured.
5. Although the company has made strides in repairing its reputation in the community, it still needs to pay its employees a fair salary.

### Ex 6.4

1. It announces the main point. *Revised*: The most common causes of asthma are exposure to allergens and allergic reactions.
2. It is neither specific nor original. *Revised*: Because it requires only a good pair of shoes and a place to run, jogging is one of the easiest aerobic sports to pursue.
3. This is a fact, not an assertion. *Revised*: The crime rate is decreasing in American cities because of more effective policing.

4. It is too broad and does not tell what the essay is about. *Revised:* Apartment dwellers have the advantages of fewer responsibilities for maintenance than home owners and more opportunities to interact with neighbors.
5. It focuses on several points. *Revised:* Parents should buy toys for their children that encourage creativity.

### Ex 6.5

1. *Types of evidence:* Personal experiences; anecdotes about friends or relatives; causes of such pressure (demands of peers or parents); comparisons with other types of pressure; examples of social or emotional problems; statistics on the cost of living, average salaries, and levels of debt for young adults; quotations from experts on financial planning or mental health.
2. (a) *Young adults:* Personal experiences or anecdotes; examples of social or emotional problems; comparison with other types of pressure; statistics. (b) *Parents of young adults:* Anecdotes about friends or relatives; causes of such pressure; comparisons with other types of pressure; statistics; quotations from experts. (c) *Counselors of young adults:* Causes of such pressure; statistics; quotations from experts.

### “Internet Addiction” by Greg Beato

#### Examining the Reading

1. *Internet addiction* refers to an overuse of the Internet that interferes with daily functioning; it is not medically accepted as an addiction.
2. Examples of dangerous behavior caused by Internet addiction include the 2007 shooting of parents who took their teen’s Xbox away and the South Korean couple who let their baby starve while they fed a virtual baby in an online game.
3. Social consequences include insurance coverage of addiction treatment and criminal defense on grounds of diminished capacity.
4. *Parody:* to mock; *pathological:* abnormal; *nihilistic:* tending to believe that there is no morality; *lurid:* repulsive; *specter:* a disturbing prospect.

#### Analyzing the Writer’s Technique

1. Sample thesis: “It is easy to mock, but Internet addiction is long-standing and threatens our culture in many ways.” This thesis is an assertion; it is specific; it focuses on one central point; it avoids making an announcement; it is supportable.
2. Beato writes for a general, middle-aged audience with the purpose of illustrating the destructiveness of Internet addiction and thus uses news-like examples and expert testimony.
3. Answers will vary.

#### Thinking Critically about the Reading

1. Many of Beato’s sources are trustworthy and reliable — credible newspapers, a Harvard-affiliated hospital, university research, as well as the APA’s diagnostic manual; however, he also cites a Google search without naming his sources.
2. Realistic, gently mocking.
3. “On a pound-for-pound basis. . . .” He supports this idea with only a hypothetical scenario (Steve Jobs) and generalizations about the culture (“who. . . already doesn’t check his email more often than necessary?”)
4. *Junkies* in this case are Internet addicts; the connotation is negative. Other words with strong connotations: *narcotics* (para. 1, negative), *detox* (2, positive), *philanderers* (5, negative), *lurid* (8, negative).

5. The Cosette Rae information, while secondhand, could be called expert testimony; the Google search results should be specified to be considered credible sources.

### **Interpreting a Graphic**

1. The difference is not defined, but the term “problematic use” is somewhat less serious than dependency,” which indicates a stronger degree of reliance.
2. The sources— a well-respected think tank and an article in a scholarly journal— seem highly reliable. (Of course, the data could have been taken out of context.) For a paper on Internet dependency, one might also include anecdotes about teens as well as a broader range of articles from scholarly journals and books.

### **Responding to the Reading**

1. If the author wrote this piece for *Parents* magazine, it would probably include less speculative and vague source material and include more expert testimony. The tone would be more serious as well.
2. Answers will vary.
3. There may not be enough evidence yet to support its inclusion. The disorder is suspected but not yet proven to the satisfaction of the APA.
4. Answers will vary.

### **Working Together**

- 1.–2. Answers will vary.
3. After students have produced their captions, share the cartoonist’s original caption with them—“Class of 2008, never let the excuse ‘I can’t find my pants’ stand in the way of your dreams.”—and have them compare their punch lines with the cartoonist’s.