Required Journal Entry 2: The Role of Correctness in Writing As you complete the Parts of Speech, Sentence Skills, and Word Usage online study units, consider the importance of correctness in writing. How do errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation affect the relationship between the writer and the reader of an essay? What are your strengths and weaknesses as a writer? (2 paragraphs, 5–7 sentences for each question)

Required Journal Entry 3: Prewriting and Thesis Statement Brainstorm: Review the description of brainstorming in your textbook on pages 112–113. Then, write a list of all the social media and social-networking websites and apps you might use to connect with friends and family and to meet people. Respond: What are some differences among the sites you listed? How would you categorize them? (1 paragraph, 5 sentences) Write a thesis statement: Review “Writing Assertions” on page 115 in your textbook. Then follow the guidelines on pages 126–127 in your textbook to write an effective thesis statement based on the types of social media using the ideas you developed in the Brainstorm and Respond sections of this journal entry. Reflect: Explain the position you’ve taken in your thesis statement and identify the items from your brainstorming list or categories that you believe will best support your position. (1 paragraph, 5 sentences)

Required Journal Entry 4: Organizing and Drafting Using your thesis statement and evidence from Journal Entry 3, select a method of organization from your textbook on pages 141–150. Choose one of the graphic organizers or formal outlines to organize your evidence so that it supports the position you take in your thesis statement in the most effective way possible. Include your outline in your journal. Reflect: Explain why you chose this particular method of organization over the other possibilities. Why do you believe it’s the most effective way to present your topic to your audience? (1 paragraph, 6 sentences)

Required Journal Entry 5: Revising This journal entry requires you to review the rough draft of the essay that follows. As you analyze the draft according to each of the areas listed, identify what needs revision. For each area, explain why and how you would change the draft. (4 paragraphs, 5 sentences each) Analyze the essay’s • Purpose and audience—Can you clearly identify the audience and the purpose of the essay? • Thesis statement, topic sentences, and paragraphs—Is there a clear thesis statement? Are there paragraphs with topic sentences? • Evidence—Has the author provided enough evidence to support the main idea of the essay? • Organization—Are the author’s points organized well enough for a reader to follow easily? Rough Draft: Email vs. Letters Instead of using emails, mail a letter to your grandparents, an aunt or uncle, or another role model who’s older than you are. We live in a fast-paced world. We use computers to send emails and instant messages. Some, though, don’t live in that time zone. Forget all the fonts, emoticons, and abbreviations like LOL. You point and click, but some people want to hold something, unwrap a letter, and smell it. A crayoned picture smells and feels special; no scanner can do that. People’s senses want to be used. We live in a physical world, not an invisible one. People can touch something that’s mailed. Sometimes it’s as if touching the ink or pencil on paper helps them touch the writer. A picture can be held and used in so many ways. For example, I get to see how my grandkids’ handwriting is changing as they grow. I know how they feel just from the way they write the words. A letter gives someone the real thing. A letter exists in time and space. Even if someone emails you regularly, the surprise of a mailed letter provides something to cherish rather than to be deleted. Of course, they may like getting through the Internet a photograph of you on the day of a special event. However, a printed photograph can be put into an album or used for a bookmark or posted on the refrigerator for regular review. They don’t have to worry about color cartridges or paper because you’ve given them what they need in the mail. Though they may have a hard time reading your handwriting, a letter is a tangible way to remind them that you care enough to take the time and effort to communicate with them and them alone. The convenience and efficiency of computers can’t be matched by regular postal service. However, they sometimes bleep and blurp in a frustrating conversation, one that older persons can’t always hear or understand. One wrong click here and another there can mean mass destruction. They may get a paper cut from your letter, but even sucking on a finger while reading makes their experience more memorable and satisfying. The cut heals; the letter remains alive. To evaluate your essay in progress complete the following exercises: “Essay in Progress 1” on page 185, “Essay in Progress 2” on page 187, and both “Essay in Progress” 3 and 4 on page 188

Required Journal Entry 6: Evaluation of Unit 1 Briefly summarize each stage of the writing process that you learned about in Unit 1 of your Successful College Writing textbook. Identify three elements you learned that you think will be the most helpful to you as you continue in this course. Explain why. (3 paragraphs, 6 sentences each)