Fluency Writing # 9
STUDENT A

DO NOT LOOK ATYOUR PARTNERS'PAGES.

Step 1:

1. Silently read the first part of the article below.
2. Write answers to the Comprehension Questions that are under the article. (Do not write answers to the **bold** questions in the article, which are simply to help you communicate with your partners.)

Any Excuse Is Better Than No Excuse (Part 1)

At the airport, a passenger was waiting at the gate to get on his plane flight. Then he heard this announcement: "Attention, passengers. Flight 1234 is delayed by three hours." "Oh, no!" he said in frustration. ***Understand?***

A week later, when he was returning home, his flight was delayed again. However, this time, the announcement said, "Flight 5678 is delayed by four hours because of operational reasons." Operational reasons could be something like bad weather, a mechanical problem, or too many planes trying to take off. ***Do you understand?*** This passenger was surprised to discover that he was not frustrated by the delay this time. ***OK?***

The passenger's opposite reactions can be explained by an experiment conducted by a Harvard professor of psychology, Professor Langer. For this research, she went to a room with a photocopy machine at the college library. She waited in the corner of the room, and soon several students were standing in line at the machine. Then she approached the person at the front of the line and said, "Excuse me, I have only five pages. May I use the copy machine?" She found that 60% of the time, the person let her use the copy machine first. ***Do you me to explain that part again?***

Comprehension Questions

1. About the first flight, why did the passenger feel frustrated?
2. About the second flight, what excuse did the announcement give?
3. In the study by Professor Langer, where did she wait for a copy machine?
4. Did she tell a reason why she wanted to use the copy machine?
5. What percent of people let her use the copy machine: 40% 60% 80%?

Step 2:

1. Read your part of the article to your partners. If they don't understand something, explain it in different words.
2. Ask your partners the Comprehension Questions and help them with their answers if necessary.

Steps 3 & 4:

1. Listen to your partners read the second and third parts of the article. If you don't understand something, ask for an explanation.
2. Answer their Comprehension Questions.

Final Step: Do the Fluency Writing Exercise in Step 5.

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Fluency Writing #
STUDENT B

DO NOT LOOK ATYOUR PARTNERS'PAGES.

Step 1:

1. Silently read the second part of the article below.
2. Write answers to the Comprehension Questions that are under the article. (Do not write answers to the **bold** questions in the article, which are simply to help you communicate with your partners.)

Any Excuse Is Better Than No Excuse (Part 2)

Next, the professor repeated the experiment, but this time, she made a small change. In this second experiment, she gave a reason, "Excuse me. I have only five pages. May I use the copy machine? I'm in a hurry." ***OK?*** Almost everyone (in fact, 94% of the people who were waiting in line) let her go first. This is not too surprising because if someone else is in a hurry, we tend to let that person go first in line. ***Do you understand?***

We just heard about Professor Langer's second experiment. In it, she gave the excuse "I'm in a hurry." After that, she tried a third experiment, but this time, she used a silly excuse. She said, "Excuse me. I have only five pages. May I use the copy machine? I have to make some copies." ***Understand?*** Her excuse was obvious. In fact, that is the reason why everyone was standing in line. However, amazingly, 93% of the time, she was allowed to go first. ***OK?***

The professor concluded that when we give a reason for what we are doing, it doesn't matter if it is a serious or silly excuse. Other people are more likely to be open-minded and helpful. ***Got it?***

Comprehension Questions

1. In the first experiment, Professor Langer gave no reason to use the copy machine. What reason did she give in the second experiment?
2. In the second experiment, what percent of the people let her go first: 74% 84% 94%?
3. In the third experiment, her excuse was, "I have to make some copies." Why is this a silly excuse?
4. In the third experiment, what percent of the people waiting in line let her go first: 43% 63% 93%?
5. What did the researcher conclude from this study?

Step 2:

1. Listen to Student A read the first part of the article. If you don't understand something, ask for an explanation.
2. Answer the comprehension questions.

Step 3:

1. Read your part of the article to your partners. If they don't understand something, explain it in different words.
2. Ask your partners the Comprehension Questions and help them with their answers if necessary.

Steps 4:

1. Listen to Student C read the third part of the article. If you don't understand something, ask for an explanation.
2. Answer the Comprehension Questions.

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Final Step: Do the Fluency Writing Exercise in Step 5.

Fluency Writing # 9
STUDENT C

DO NOT LOOK ATYOUR PARTNERS'PAGES.

Step 1:

3. Silently read the third part of the article below.
4. Write answers to the Comprehension Questions that are under the article. (Do not write answers to the **bold** questions in the article, which are simply to help you communicate with your partners.)

Any Excuse Is Better Than No Excuse (Part 3)

Here is some advice. If someone asks why you have not finished a task, it's a good idea to just say, "I haven't finished yet because I haven't had time to do it." Of course, that's a weak excuse. However, according to research, it usually satisfies the other person. ***Understand?*** For example, one day, a woman noticed how her husband was organizing the dirty laundry. He carefully separated the black clothes from the blue ones. To his wife, this didn't make sense. They were all dark colors, so they could be washed together. She asked him why he did that. He answered, "Because I prefer to wash them separately." That simple excuse helped her feel satisfied about her husband's unusual habit. ***Do you want me to explain that part again?***

Comprehension Questions

1. The author gave some advice. What can we say if we haven't finished a task?
2. In the example, what unusual habit did the husband have?
3. What excuse did he give his wife?
4. This is a discussion question. All of us should answer it. Let's say you didn't finish you're your homework assignment. Your teacher asks you why you don't have it. What could you say?
5. (This is not a question.) If we want to, we can exchange papers and silently read the three parts of the article. Then we can do Step 5 **individually**. However, we cannot look at the article while we do Step 5.

Step 2 & 3:

1. Listen to your partners read the first and second parts of the article. If you don't understand something, ask for an explanation.
2. Answer their Comprehension Questions.

Step 4:

1. Read your part of the article to your partners. If they don't understand something, explain it in different words.
2. Ask your partners the Comprehension Questions and help them with their answers if necessary.

Final Step: Do the Fluency Writing Exercise in Step 5.

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Fluency Writing # 9
Any Excuse Is Better Than No Excuse

Option: You can ask your partners to remind you about some details. However, DO NOT look at the articles while you do Step 5.

Students
A, B, & C

Step 5: Fluency Writing Exercise

1. Individually write the information from the article "**Any Excuse is Better Than no Excuse**" with as many details as possible. You can use the "Key Words and Phrases" in the box below to write your paper.
2. Write about the information from **all three parts of the article** (Part 1, Part 2, and Part 3)**,** not just your part.

Key Words and Phrases

1) Flight 1234 is delayed
2) frustration
3) operational reasons
4) experiment conducted
5) Professor Langer
6) photocopy machine
7) standing in line
8) I have only five pages
9) May I use the copy machine
10) 60% of the time
11) I'm in a hurry
12) 94% of the people
13) I have to make some copies
14) 93%
15) silly excuse
16) advice
17) dirty laundry
18) dark colors
19) feel satisfied

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