

WRITING DEVELOPMENT

In her book, *The Writing Revolution* Judith Hochman tells us that students' problems with reading comprehension, as well with writing essays, occur because they have not been taught systematically to write ... to which her book gives a step-by-step guide.

The Writing Development exercises here are adapted from her programme.

Sioux Government & Warfare

5. Subordinating conjunctions II – Although, If, Since

Subordinating clauses do not just help you make the sentence more complex, they allow you the sentence to convey more complex ideas, for example:

“Although the Indigenous Nations fought wars which included massacres and many deaths, the general opinion was that fighting to the death was stupid.”

“If a direct attack involves too much risk, the Indian's next concern is to get possession of the horses.”

“Since the harsh environment forced them to work together, there were no written laws or prisons.”

You will note from these examples that the subordinating clause (which need not, but in these examples comes at the start of the sentence) allows the sentence to introduce a related, but different idea – a different opinion of war, a different plan of attack, a different approach to law & order.

This is essential when you are writing argumentative answers, which require you weigh conflicting ideas (such as 'which was the more important reason').

1. Complete the following sentence stems:

- Although the Chiefs were held in great respect, _____.
- If a warrior did not want to follow the orders of the Chief, _____.
- Since they believed that they would go to the Happy Hunting Ground when they died, _____.

- Although we call them 'the Sioux', _____.
- If a warrior felt a direct attack was too dangerous, _____.
- Since a wise warrior lived to fight another day, _____.

2. Develop subordinating clauses which might precede the following sentence stems:

- Although _____, 'Pipe Holders' would conduct ceremonies, organise the moving of camp, and controlled the hunt breaches of the social code.
- If _____, they might be punished by shaming or even banishment.
- Since _____, 'counting coup' was considered the bravest act of war.

3. Develop your own 'Although', 'If' and 'Since' sentences about:

- The *Akicita*
- The Sioux' duty of prayer
- Sioux government
- Sioux warfare