

After a recent trip to his grandparent's home near a prairie, Alberto became interested in the land. He researched the topic and then wrote this paper. Read Alberto's paper and think about how he should revise and edit it. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Prairie



(1) A constant breeze weaves through waves of tall grass stretched for miles in every direction. (2) A few trees dot the landscape like a quick afterthought. (3) Overhead light streams across a blanket of blue sky all around the horizon. (4) From the south end of Texas, through the middle of parts of the United States, and on up into southern Canada, these prairie lands spread far and wide. (5) One must see to understand its beauty the prairie.

(6) The rocky mountains a major mountain range in North America border the prairie on the west. (7) Any precipitation carried by weather systems is usually dropped on the mountains of the west. (8) The weather systems have to move higher to get over the mountains. (9) This cools the air, and cool air is not able to carry as much moisture as warmer air while the moisture falls from the systems on the western side of the mountains. (10) Few trees but lots of grasses grow on the prairie. (11) Short grass extends from the west with taller grasses taking over the farther east one travels. (12) A little more precipitation in the eastern reaches of the prairie lands accounts for the taller plants.

(13) Like a speeding race horse fire often rages across the prairie. (14) The tops of any plants in the path of the fire are destroyed, but the roots below ground survive. (15) Roots hold plants to the ground. (16) Matter is left behind by the dead parts of the plants. (17) These help new plants grow from the old roots.

(18) The ever present winds distribute seeds all throughout the prairie. (19) These same winds drive the grass fires across the flat lands. (20) The fires keep the prairie intact. (21) Otherwise, trees would slowly creep in or eventually take over.

(22) Many animals live on or under the North American prairie. (23) Insects crawl around on the grasses and flowers, munching and eating there fill. (24) Small animals feast on the plants, too. (25) Larger predators hunt and live on the smaller animals. (26) Birds eat the insects and seeds. (27) These animals has learned to live among the grasses and flowers of the wide open prairie.

Read Alberto's paper and think about how it should be revised.

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(Category 2 – 14 C – RS)

1. What is the most effective revision to make in sentence 5?
- A The prairie that is beautiful must be seen and be understood.
 - B One must see the prairie to understand its beauty.
 - C One must understand to see the beauty of the prairie.
 - D The prairie must be understood to see its beauty.

(Category 2 – 14 C – RS)

2. What sentence could be added after sentence 9 to strengthen this paragraph?
- F The mountains are very tall in this section of North America.
 - G Warm air is able to hold a lot of moisture.
 - H Once the winds and clouds reach the prairie lands, little moisture is left to fall.
 - J Sometimes the clouds are thick and sometimes they are thin near the mountains.

(Category 2 – 17 Aiii – SS)

3. Alberto is concerned that there is a sentence in the third paragraph (sentences 13-17) that does not add anything to this paper. Which sentence should Alberto delete from this paragraph?
- A Like a speeding race horse fire often rages across the prairie.
 - B The tops of any plants in the path of the fire are destroyed, but the roots below ground survive.
 - C Roots hold plants to the ground.
 - D Matter left behind by the dead parts of the plants help new plants grow from the old roots.

(Category 2 – 17 Aiv – SS)

4. What is the best way to combine sentences 16 and 17?
- F Matter left behind by the dead parts of the plants helps new plants grow from the old roots.
 - G However, the matter left behind by dead parts of the plants when new plants grow from the old roots.
 - H Matter left behind by the dead parts of the plants, the matter helps new plants grow from the old roots.
 - J As the matter is left behind by dead parts of the plants and new plants grow from the old roots.

(Category 2 – 17Aiii – SS)

5. Alberto would like to add a sentence to support the idea he has presented in sentence 18. Which of these could BEST follow and support sentence 18?
- A The seeds fall, take root, and grow quickly.
 - B The seeds will grow if they make it to the ground.
 - C The wind is always blowing on the prairie.
 - D The wind helps the prairie become a better place for plants.