

## 4.4 Construct/Destruct Self-Assessment Key

### Overview of Mistakes in “Proposal”

Corrections on this page, and part of the next, apply to questions **1a**, **1b**, and **1c**, and show most mistakes in Tyrone’s work. Numbers in parentheses on next page refer to lines in Tyrone’s work, seen on [page 42](#).

- (1) **Missing comma; missing words** (Last year or so, graffiti and vandalism have become common . . . ;), **missing hyphen** (Tri-Town)
- (2) **Spelling** (It all started when or town had a political campaign . . . )
- (2-3) **Capitalization** of “Kids”
- (3) **Awkward/word choice issues, run-on sentence:** Try this: Kids in town felt the election was unimportant and not directed towards them. Because of this, they thought what happened to the election signs would not matter.
- (4-5) **Redundant** (use of “kids”) **and always capitalize first word of sentences. This could be viewed as run-on** (They got pretty creative with some spray paint ( / ) and while the effect was really artistic and impressive, the local politicians and law enforcement didn’t think so.)
- (6-7) Spelling, word choice (because, election, main street). **Leaving the phrase** “graffiti in the main street area grew” **is sufficient. Adding “bigger” is unnecessary.**
- (7-8) **Vague word choice** (starting sentence with “it” is not very descriptive), **punctuation** (use a comma between ‘owners’ and ‘because’) **and spelling** (“catch”, “damages”)
- (10-15) *Run-on sentence! It literally is running away with itself to Mexico! Run-on sentences show little control over structure, and they have effect of exhausting a reader from being difficult to follow. A run-on sentence such as this one is fixed best by forming two or three smaller sentences from the content.*
- (15) **Word choice and comma needed for transition** (“Now there’s art, “ ) and **spelling** (plain messy damage).
- (15-16) **Missing words, awkward phrasing** (“This was a just a case of a group of youth having nothing to do, who needed a creative outlet.”)
- (16-17) **Spelling and usage** (“**Other youth** (kids in my school) loved it, and the graffiti resulted in more graffiti artists and followers”).
- (17-19) **Vague** (“anyone” is not very specific here. Perhaps use “other students” instead?)

(19-20) **Run-On sentence** (end first sentence after “put down”). **Word choice** (“put down” insinuates a different meaning. What about “discouraged”?)

(21) **Extra word** (“these”). **Add a descriptive word to ‘kids’, such as ‘creative kids’.**

### Overview of Mistakes in Tyrone’s “Rationale”

B. **extra words** (“creative outlet”)

D. **spelling** (should)

E. **Run on/unnecessary words** (eliminate “typically, kids working on those projects.”)

F. **Awkward wording** (“not a negative light.”) **What about** “the public would have an opportunity . . .”)

F-G. **Spelling, vague word choice** (“The business owners in town wouldn’t have to worry about **destruction of** their property **anymore.**”)

G-I. **Unnecessary words/awkward phrasing, and spelling** (“The site could arrange formal shows for the public where special displaces are shown, maybe providing snacks or a band.”)

I-J **tense confusion (writing future tense, not present), and spelling** (Young artists **could** have a safe place to create outdoor art, and let their **imagination**s run **wild.**)

## Self-Assessment Question Key

1. See corrections for various errors on the previous page. “Noticeable” mistakes usually involve spelling and punctuation. We notice mistakes when a piece of text is difficult to read *because* of those mistakes. Accurate punctuation, spelling, and grammar help us *understand* text.
2. Lines 1-2: “In the last year or so, graffiti and vandalism have been common problems in the Cold Lake Tri-Town area.” **OR** “Over the last year or so, graffiti and vandalism have been common problems in the Cold Lake Tri-town area.” *Other options may be acceptable here.*

Lines 10-15: *The best solution here is to split the run-on sentence into a few sentences. The options here vary, among them these examples:*

- a. The issue of street art came to my attention because of numerous letters in the newspaper at this time. All expressed outrage, complaints, or negative rants about street art. Although some of the stencils the vandals used were intricate and required a lot of skill, none of the letters addressed the positive aspect of talent behind street art.
- b. Street art in Cold Lake came to my attention because of all the letters appearing in the local paper earlier this year. Most spoke negatively about street art. Not one letter addressed the positive side of the art. It was unfortunate because a lot of talent and effort went into the detailed stencils used.

Line 15: “Now there is a difference between art and plain messy damage. “ **OR** “It’s important to realize there is real art, and then there is just plain messy damage.”

3. a. “... it would provide more creative and bored teenagers with something to do as well as a creative outlet.” Use of *creative* here is repetitive; an alternative word would be better.
  - b. “... Numerous endless letters ...” *Using both “numerous” and “endless” is redundant and unclear: an “endless” amount of letters is impossible.*
4. **One example of a well transitioned paragraph:**

- a. Upon completion, the space would look like an open-air workshop that the public could walk through whenever they want (this should be encouraged). Naturally, it would be full of started, finished or incomplete art projects and their creators (kids). Seeing this, the public would have an opportunity to understand the kids behind the art in a more positive way. Furthermore, business owners in town would not have to worry about their properties anymore. In addition, the site could arrange formal shows for the public with special displays, snacks, and even a music band. Above all, young artists would now have a safe place to create outdoor art, letting their imaginations run wild.

**A very good additional reference for transition words can be found at Smart Words:** <http://tinyurl.com/3h2qcn8>



5. **Examples of effective sentences are varied. A few examples are listed below.**

- a. "Kids got pretty creative with some spray paint and while the effect was really artistic and impressive, the local politicians and law enforcement didn't think so." *This is well stated and shows the contrast in the viewpoints of this issue immediately.*
- b. "It made storefronts look really bad and made the general public feel unsafe because it no longer looked clean." *This sentence is effective in listing the effects of this issue on the community.*
- c. "By addressing the issue, this creativity and talent could be showcased instead of discouraged, and by not doing so, it would probably just continue to annoy people and get kids into trouble with the law." *Although this sentence would be more effective if it was split into two sentences, it uses transition effectively at the beginning and gives both sides of the issue's consequences.*

6. A few ideas of further developed and re-written paragraphs are listed below:

- a. Line 6: *After the election, the graffiti did not stop. It became a bigger problem affecting the business owners in several ways. The storefronts did not look professional or clean with graffiti, which gave the public the impression that the downtown was no longer safe. This discouraged people from going to these stores and spending money. Because the vandals were never caught, the businesses would have to pay for repairs of the damage themselves, which took more money out of their pocket.*
- b. Line 10: *The issue about the street art came to my attention because of numerous letters published in the local paper. Street art was received negatively by the public for the most part despite the effort that had gone into the art. Some of the stencils the vandals used were really intricate and required a lot of skill. However, there is art, and then there is just a plain mess.*
- c. Line 19: *By addressing this issue, this creativity and talent could be showcased instead of discouraged. The real cause of the street art is that some bored kids were looking for a creative outlet. Interestingly, other students I go to school with loved the street art, and these events resulted in more graffiti artists and fans as time passed. It became a culture of silence in our school because no one would report a fellow student, and it was against the law to do graffiti. Unfortunately, if this issue is not turned into a positive opportunity, it will continue to annoy people and potentially get kids in trouble with the law.*