

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.

A Divided Society I – Immigration

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 many immigrants found work in industrial and manufacturing sectors, jobs were often low-paying, physically demanding, and involved long hours.”

“If the immigrant was a young woman, she would be detained until a relative came for them (for fear she might become destitute and resort to prostitution)..”

“Since access to healthcare and Social Services was often limited, immigrants relied on community-based clinics and services provided by charitable organizations.”

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 ALL Americans were immigrants, _____.
- If an immigrant entered the US through Ellis Island, _____.
- Since they faced everyday discrimination in the workplace, _____.

- Although the USA had fought in the First World War, _____.
- If they were Italian, _____.
- Since immigrants were suspected of bringing communism and anarchism, _____.

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

- Although _____, immigrants significantly enriched American culture.
- If _____, their children would enjoy a better life.
- Since _____, they often lived in overcrowded, insanitary and substandard housing.

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

- Ethnic enclaves
- Americanisation
- Immigrants living in company -owned towns
- Fiorello La Guardia