This person __________

0 Cinda Wood - writes guidelines for newbies.
I really love working with flowers and also have loved learning Photoshop CS2 and InDesign. My first book was created just for florists, with a CD for their web sites’ images. Most people do not realize that 95% of all images online for florists belong to wire services and so the book filled a niche. I now have been creating floral cookbooks for people who are not florists with simple instructions to help the beginner.

1 Donna Hardyman - wants to travel with his/her pets.
I am trying to learn as much as I can about the fauna. I love writing about my dogs, be it training, or the unconditional love they give. I am also exploring the dream of selling everything I own, packing up the dogs and seeing the US in a recreational vehicle. Any suggestions to sites, forums, etc that will help me fulfill my dream of travelling with my dogs will be appreciated!

2 Alex Mayer - enjoys sports and animals.
I absolutely adore horseback riding. I own three horses here in the UK. A stallion named "Perseus" who is insane and I think that's why I prefer to ride him and a new stallion named "Disraeli". He's even a bit more crazy than the other. It's always a fight of wills and I love the fight. The other is a mare named "Seripho" who is an absolute sweetheart. Besides riding, I play tennis and just started taking boxing lessons; it's a killer workout.

3 Jerry E Spencer - adores communicating with other people.
I have travelled all over the world and have seen a lot of things in my life, and I have loved all of it. I am a people person, I like talking with people from all over the world. My wife says that I talk more than ten women put together. I would like to help as many people as I can with my writing. I feel if I can help you out with something, then I have done some good out here in this world. And that is a good feeling.

4 Tim Bennett - invites other people to participate in his/her activity.
Although I am English I have been living in the Philippines for the last 10 years and contrary to what you may have heard about all the bad things in the Philippines it is a wonderful country with loads of opportunities. I believe very heavily in taking action rather than just talking about things and my programs are based around weaving the principles of wealth into our lives rather than living superficially. If you would like to be part of my team in any way or if you would like any help you can contact me anytime.

5 Mike Bova - is ready to discuss various topics.
I am an Advertising Director and Business Columnist for a chain of newspapers in the Fingerlakes Region. I also own The Upstate New York Shopping And Business Directory. Please feel free to email me whether you are into business or not. Networking is a very good thing! Let's talk about whatever....
Imagine yourself on a boat looking out at the horizon and all you can see is the water meeting the sky with no land in sight and you are sailing straight ahead to meet the world. Jesse Martin does not have to imagine: he is living it.

On Dec. 7, 1998, at 17 years old, Jesse departed from Melbourne, Australia on his boat Lionheart to attempt to become the youngest person to sail solo and nonstop around the world. He sailed south of New Zealand, through the South Pacific, around South America, north on the Atlantic, back south past Africa, through the Indian Ocean and back to Melbourne.

Even as a young child, Jesse had been an adventurer who travelled all over Europe and Asia with his parents. Born in Munich, Germany in 1981 he moved to Australia with his family when he was only two years old. They moved close to a rainforest in Cow Bay, about 3,500 kms north of Melbourne, where they built a small house with no electricity or running water. Jesse grew up at the beach enjoying the outdoors to its fullest.

At 14, he sailed for the first time with his father and brother, Beau. It was after this trip that he began to dream about sailing around the world. But first, Jesse catamaraned from Cairns to Cape York, then he and his brother kayaked in the rivers of Papua New Guinea. From there, he went on to join a yacht crew to sail from Belize to Tahiti. These experiences kept his dream alive.

Jesse’s family played an important role. “I was made to believe I could do anything,” he says. Although, he says, there were others that were not so encouraging or supportive, “People that I looked up to, respected and trusted told me I couldn’t. Thankfully, I trusted myself. There were people that said that the boat couldn’t be ready by the time I had to leave.” However, through perseverance and belief in himself he was able to do what many told him was impossible.

On Oct. 31, 1999, more than 10 months after he set sail, Jesse Martin went down in history as the youngest person to sail around the world solo, nonstop and unassisted. Jesse remained on dry land only long enough to document his voyage in a book called Lionheart: A Journey of the Human Spirit, and to plan his next adventure. He is now off on what has been named “The Journey of Kijana,” a two year around the world excursion crewed by five young people.

At one point on his solo trip, as Jesse overcame the obstacles that faced him, he says, “I started thinking not of what I could do after this trip, but more like what couldn’t I do! Yeeehaaahaaa!!!”

0 Jesse Martin began his travelling when he was a little child. (T)
6 Jesse had lived in Munich, the city he was born, until he was 14 years old. – F
7 The boy had already been a skilled sailor when he began his round-the-world voyage. – T
8 Jesse’s brother Beau didn’t approve of his idea about an unassisted world tour. – F
9 Jesse Martin dreamt of becoming famous and getting world-wide recognition. – F
10 Jesse’s dream had come true because of his self-confidence and purposefulness. – T
DEATH of the Classroom
The New Wave of Online Education

By Scott Reekie

Picture a society where learning can happen at any time, in any place and can be completed without ever going to class. This could be the
new wave of education and the Internet technology now exists to
support such a system.

The virtual classroom is here. If you are interested in English, or Civil Engineering, then
head to the university and click yourself a degree. Well maybe it's not that easy, but you
would be on the right track. The flexibility of studying at your own pace, and the money
you save with online courses are two of the main attractions.

The Web is a powerful educational tool. Yet some feel that virtual classrooms will isolate
students from each other, which will result in problems developing interpersonal
relationships and that these skills are much more important than computer skills. Should
teachers teach kids how to behave in society, how to respect others and how to co-operate
or should kids have already learned this from their parents? No one is saying that social
skills aren't important, however, virtual classrooms are far about more than just computer
skills. Some strongly believe that education can be taught via the Web and social skills
can be gained from joining sports teams, summer camps, or just hanging out!

Others argue that this virtual classroom may place pressure on students: to become
computer literate or be left behind in life. Is this undue pressure or reality? Maybe being
left behind in life is a little dramatic, but the reality is that the computer age is here.

Whether you want to pay for your new jeans with your debit card, or check to see if the
library has the book you want, you're going to need some computer skills.

The development of flexible, inquiring minds has rarely been the main concern in the
design of educational systems. After all, if you have over thirty inquiring minds and only
one teacher, flexibility could be a problem. It seems that developing students' proper
social behaviour has always exceeded the concern to develop students' creativity.

Computer technology can make individualized attention a real possibility. At the Institute
for the Learning Sciences, systems are being developed to allow people to try out things
in simulated worlds. This technology will allow for the individual creative growth in
students.

The Web will provide amazing opportunities for the education of our society. Anyone
with a phone line and a computer has access to unlimited amounts of knowledge and
programs designed to help them learn and understand. The teachers and parents involved
with these programs will be given the job of making sure that students lead well-balanced
lives that combine Web based education and positive social interaction with their friends
and neighbours. Imagine your recreation room has now become your classroom, and your
parents seem to be doing as much homework as you are! So, be prepared as the virtual
classroom may find its way to a computer screen near you!

0  What is the author's overall attitude towards a virtual classroom?
   He is enthusiastic.

11 Why are people attracted to online education?
   Because it is cheap and flexible.
12 What do the advocates of online education maintain?
   It will boost students’ creativity.

13 What do the opponents of online education maintain?
   The virtual classroom will place a burden on students.

14 Why does the author mention “over thirty inquiring minds and only one teacher” (line 23)?
   To prove that individualized attention is hardly possible in a traditional classroom.

15 What role are parents supposed to play in the web based education of society?
   They will have to control the virtual and real-life activities of their kids.

Task 4

Read the text below. Match choices (A-H) to (16-20). There are two choices you do not need to use. Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet. An example (θ) has been done for you.

Making the Most of Your College Applications
   By Melissa Algranati and Jennifer Gioia

You can't believe that after 12 years of education your future depends on what pearls of genius you can cram onto a handful of pages – or that complete strangers will sit in a room and determine if you will be "worthy" of attending their institution.
This can be a stressful time. Below are real questions answered by real college admissions professionals in the United States.

0 - How do I create a power-packed application that stands out from all the other applications?
   Really concentrate on your extra-curricular resume and essay. These are the two areas that will make you noticed. Take time to think about why you are involved in the activities that you are doing. What do they mean to you? How have they shaped you? How might they be of value to the university or college you will be attending?

16 - Is my out-of-school activity something noteworthy to put down on the paperwork?
   Absolutely! A number of colleges and universities give scholarships and awards to those who have been involved in leadership or community service projects. Include your involvement in extracurricular activities, and make sure to highlight any honors or awards you have received. You can also include it in your college essay, and talk about the skills you learned and opportunities you had.

17 - What do colleges look for most? Grades, extracurricular activities, volunteerism, or something else?
   It often depends on the school. Big universities and state schools get thousands and thousands of applicants each year, so they tend to focus on your grade average, scores, and class ranking. Smaller universities and colleges will have more time to focus on things like the essay, recommendations, and extracurricular activities.

18 - Lots of the colleges I am applying to ask for recommendations. Who should I ask?
   Think about who knows you best. Who can talk about your academic achievements and aspirations, as well as your character and qualities? Most students ask teachers, club advisors, coaches, and mentors.
To get the best letters possible, make sure you identify people who are supportive of you. When you ask them, let them know where you are applying and why. The goal is to choose someone who will stress the strengths you have already highlighted, or provide an opportunity to add something new about you that the admissions officer does not yet know.

19 - My grades haven't been consistent throughout high school. Is that a problem?
It definitely has an impact. You should always pay attention to your grades, especially those in your junior year of high school. But don't fret. What universities look for most is an upward trend, someone who is constantly getting better and improving.
If there is an unexpected event that caused your grades to drop, that will also be taken into consideration. And, if you have only done well in a particular subject, you can highlight that strength, stressing that you will use college as a way to really hone in and excel at your strengths and your passions.

20 - How much do application fees cost? What if I can't afford to pay them?
Each university and college has a specific application fee, which can be found on the school's website. A lot of times fee waivers are available. Check with your guidance counselor. In addition, some schools will waive the fee if the student comes to visit the campus and takes a tour or completes the school's online application.

Task 5
Read and complete the text below. For each of the empty space (21-32) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D). Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet. An example (0) has been done for you.

Native English Animals
By Nicola Jane Soen

Now England has hardly any predatory animals in the (0) wild but has it always been that way? Not according to ancient rhymes. England was once a country where predatory animals freely roamed and so danger lurked.
Many centuries ago bears, wolves, lynx, etc, ranged the forests and woodlands. Also wild boar, Elk and Aurochs (wild bulls) were (21) plentiful. However, although some of these species hung on till medieval times, most of these animals were long gone by that time.
The last English wolf in England was (22) probably killed and the population extinct by the 16th century, although in Wales it is thought to have lasted a few centuries (23) longer. The great Auroch herds did not last nearly as long and were sadly gone as early as the 9th Century, although on the continent it lasted for many, many (24) more centuries.
There was an even bigger size herding animal in Britain in the early centuries. The Giant deer species called Megaloceros, with an antler span of up to 3 meters; it was possibly (25) extinct by the time Neolithic man was making wooden stockades. But the antlers were often found, and perhaps used for digging with.
Lynx is thought to have gone by the 10th Century, in England at least. It is thought that the Neolithic settlers mingling with peoples already present or taking over, came from the continent and brought their own animals; cattle, (26) domesticated dogs and cats, pigs and also goats with them and built the wooden stockades to protect them.
In Saxon England land was cleared (27) from the forest and a large communal area was used for farming; this was divided into strips called furrows. However by Medieval times the rich landlords had claimed a lot of land and planted hedges (28) to mark their boundaries. This may have meant farming was easier, but for the poor it meant they were beggared and starving,
(29) **as** the loss of their land meant the loss of their livelihoods.

Land by the Thames was taken from the people in medieval times and given over to sheep farmers for the trading of wool, which by then had become an important industry that provided **(30) income** for the crown.

So by now most of the original predatory or herding wild animals had been **(31) replaced** by non-native species. Thankfully there is now a program that is re-releasing our original, surviving animals back into their own natural habitat. We **(32) hope** desperately that this is successful.

**Writing**

**Task 1**

Read the text below. Complete the story with the correct forms of the words in brackets **(33 – 44)**. Write your answers on the separate answer sheet. An example **(0)** has been done for you.

**The Bermuda Triangle**

The Bermuda Triangle, or Devil’s Triangle, is the name **(0) given** (give) to an area that has been at the centre of many unexplained disappearances. It lies between Bermuda, Miami and San Juan, Puerto Rico. Within this area of water, numerous planes and ships have mysteriously vanished.

The mystery of the Bermuda Triangle **(33) began** (begin) in 1950. A small article appeared outlining the strange disappearances of ships and planes. The area was given the name The Devil’s Sea. In a feature in 1964, Vincent Gaddis christened the area the Bermuda Triangle.

One of the most famous disappearances occurred in 1945. Flight 19 was a squadron of five naval bombers that supposedly disappeared while they **(34) were flying** (fly) over the Bermuda Triangle. The two planes that set out to rescue Flight 19 also disappeared and were never found. Naval ships such as the USS Cyclops also disappeared without a trace. A large ship **(35) carrying** (carry) ore also mysteriously vanished after only three days at sea. An official statement by the US Coastguard stated that repeated search attempts were made, but no traces **(36) could** (can) ever be found of the missing planes or ships.

Popularity of the Bermuda Triangle phenomenon reached a peak in 1974 with the publication of Charles Berlitz’s book. The **(37) author’s** (author) book was called The Bermuda Triangle. At around the same time, a film with the same name **(38) was released** (release) as well. Numerous articles and books **(39) have been published** (publish) since then to try to give scientific explanations to the mystery. Some of the explanations have been **(40) more** (much) than credible.

There **(41) are/were** (be) a number of discrepancies in the reports of the Flight 19 disappearance. Flight 19 was reported to have been manned by **(42) experienced** (experience) pilots flying in calm weather. In fact, the flight was a training exercise for students and the weather had turned stormy. The last contact with the flight stated that they were running low on fuel. The flight would no doubt have crash-landed, and no one could have survived the stormy seas of the triangle.

For all credible explanations of the disappearances, one mystery **(43) remains/remained** (remain). None of the crashed planes were ever recovered. As a mystery, the Bermuda Triangle is one that may never **(44) be solved** (solve).