Revising and Editing: Sample Texts

Passage 1

(1) There is a new fitness fad in California that provides exercise for dogs and fun for their owners. (2) The sport, called urban mushing, is similar to traditional dogsledding, only without the sleds or the miles of bleak, rural, frozen terrain. (3) Urban mushing is an activity for city residents.

(4) For over one thousand years, dog-powered sleds have been used for hunting and travel by indigenous peoples across the northern reaches of Siberia and North America. (5) Interestingly, the people known as Eskimos in the U.S. are called Inuit in Canada. (6) However, it was not until the Alaska Gold Rush in the late 1800s that dogsledding, or mushing, became known as a sport. (7) Before long, dogsled races were popping up throughout Alaska and the Northwest. (8) Dogsled racing involves being pulled various distances on a sled by a single dog or a team of dogs. (9) The increasingly and popular pastime was even a demonstration sport at the 1932 and 1952 Olympics.

(10) Over the years, dogsled races spread across North America, northern Europe, and beyond. (11) As participation in the races grew, they sought out a way to keep the dogs in shape during warmer seasons. (12) Thus urban mushing was born. (13) Started in Seattle and now practiced all over the West Coast, the new sport involves harnessing dogs to bicycles, scooters, or carts instead of sleds. (14) Dogs seem to love the exercise and their mushers enjoy an exciting ride through city parks, on bike paths and even on neighborhood streets. (15) As the trend catches on, can it be long before we start measuring vehicle performance in dogpower instead of horsepower?
Passage 2

(1) Beginning with his 1964 film A Fistful of Dollars, the Italian director Sergio Leone resurrected the western, the most American of all movie genres, with a handful of austerely beautiful, hyperviolent, and stylized films known as “spaghetti westerns.” (2) But the spotlight on one director has tended to obscure the rest of the Italian western subgenre, which may include as many as 500 films.

(3) Most of these pictures were all-Italian, quickly shot in studios just outside Rome. (4) Their settings, however, include Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, as well as Mexico. (5) Multiple films were made simultaneously about characters with sometimes improbable names: Django, Cjamango, Sartana, Sabata, Arizona Colt. (6) Some were bigger-scale affairs, with international casts, exteriors in Spain, and money from Germany and – eventually – American studios. (7) Higher-end spaghetti westerns often featured extraordinary music (usually composed by Ennio Morricone), extravagant production design, and leading players from the United States, including Henry Fonda, Charles Bronson, Joseph Cotton, and Orson Welles.

(8) Leone deserves the attention he received: he was a great filmmaker who made Clint Eastwood an international star. (9) A Fistful of Dollars, which was based on Japanese director Akira Kurosawa’s samurai classic Yojimbo, was set in Mexico and shot principally in Spain, with interiors staged in Rome. (10) Leone hired his star, who was on hiatus from the television show Rawhide. (11) Eastwood played a sullen gunslinger embroiled in a rivalry between two ruthless families in a dusty frontier town. (12) Eastwood later cemented his fame by playing the iconic police detective “Dirty Harry” Callahan.