Next-Generation Writing - Question 1 of 25

Instructions

Read the following early draft of an essay and then choose the best answer to the question or the best completion of the statement.

Passage

(1) The poet Robert Frost appreciated the many literary honors that had been bestowed upon him, but nothing could match the sense of pride that overwhelmed him in 1961. **(2)** He had received an invitation from President-Elect John F. Kennedy to read a poem at the inauguration. **(3)** The poet was gratified, at the age of eighty-six, to be part of what he saw as the dawning of a new cultural age. **(4)** He knew that he was the first poet to participate in these prestigious ceremonies; therefore, he contemplated which poem would be appropriate for the occasion.

(5) The president-elect initially suggested that the poet compose new verse specifically for the event. **(6)** The poet expressed reluctance to proceed in this manner. **(7)** It was not customary for him to write a commissioned poem for a certain occasion. **(8)** The president then requested one of the poet's well-known pieces, "The Gift Outright," whose subject was the history and the future of the land. **(9)** The poet concurred because he believed the theme captured the spirit of the event. **(10)** He was confident he could recite the piece impeccably in the commanding voice warranted by the distinguished gathering.

(11) He devoted himself to the task of creating a new poem, which he would read before he recited the familiar selection. **(12)** Upon further reflection, Frost decided that such an auspicious occasion merited original verse. **(13)** He saw this event, which would be witnessed by millions, as an opportunity to further the cause of the arts in society. **(14)** In spite of his concern over time constraints—the occasion was an important one!—he resolved to compose a relevant tribute.

(15) As the immanent poet wrote, he contemplated the dual purpose of his new poem. **(16)** He wanted not only to honor the new president in a way that would touch the hearts of the audience but also to inspire others to appreciate the arts. **(17)** He proceeded with an enthusiasm befitting his notable role.

Question

Which is the best version of the underlined portion of sentence 4 (reproduced below)?

He knew that he was the first poet to participate in these prestigious ceremonies; therefore, he contemplated which poem would be appropriate for the occasion.

- ○ (as it is now)
- ○ ceremonies, therefore,
- ○ ceremonies, therefore;
- ○ ceremonies, therefore

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