

10.1 GIS Worksheet Paper Key

1. Geographic information systems (GIS) manipulate, analyze and graphically present an array of information associated with geographic locations.
Most style manuals recommend the comma before the final item in the series to signal that the series is about to end. Journalistic style differs from this pattern.
2. Their usefulness in disaster responses ^{was} ~~were~~ demonstrated during the Space Shuttle Columbia recovery effort.
subject = usefulness (singular); verb should be "was"
3. GIS provided precise maps and search grids to guide crew's to the debris strewn across 41 counties in Texas and Louisiana.
plural, not possessive
4. The federal government, has long been attempting to develop an integrated nationwide GIS network.
(simple sentence) subject: government; verb: has long been attempting Don't use a comma to separate the subject and verb (or other sentence parts that must be understood together). Note: It's OK to break up the verb phrase with the modifier (adverb) "long."
5. By coordinating efforts within and outside the federal government, duplicative geospatial data collection ^{network officials would reduce} ~~would be reduced.~~
(dangling modifier) The intro phrase ("by coordinating...") grammatically modifies the subject of the clause "collection." But the modifier "dangles" because collection cannot coordinate. Placing the phrase at the end of the sentence will not correct the problem because the subject of "coordinating" is still not in the sentence.
Either 1) change the clause or 2) convert the phrase to a clause.
1) By coordinating..., network officials would reduce...
2) If network officials coordinate efforts..., duplicative geospatial data collection would be reduced.
6. In 1990, the Office of Management and Budget established the Federal Geographic Data Committee which promoted the coordinated use, sharing, and dissemination of geospatial data nationwide.
(nonrestrictive clause) Naming the committee makes it unlikely that the clause that follows could restrict its meaning. Parallelism does not require that all the items in a series have the same ending. In this case, "use," "sharing," and "dissemination" all function as nouns, though "sharing" is a gerund.
7. In 1994, the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) program was established to address the problem of the redundancy and incompatibility of geospatial information ^{by executive order} ~~by executive order.~~
(misplaced modifier) The current placement of "by executive order" suggests that redundancy and incompatibility happened by executive order. A misplaced modifier, unlike a dangling modifier, may be corrected by finding a new place for it in the sentence.
8. More recently, Geospatial One-Stop, a component of NSDI was initiated.
(internal phrase) "A component of NSDI" is an appositive phrase: it restates or modifies "Geospatial One-Stop." An internal phrase needs a pair of commas.
9. The purpose of Geospatial One-Stop is ^{to} ~~aimed at~~ ^e ~~promoting~~ coordinated geospatial data collection and maintenance across all levels of government.
(faulty predication) This sentence claims that "aimed" describes "purpose," but that's redundant. The modifier following "to be" verb describes the subject. Two possible edits:
Geospatial One-Stop is aimed...
OR The purpose of Geospatial One-Stop is to promote...
10. Among its objectives are deploying an Internet portal for one-stop access to geospatial data and ~~to develop~~ ^{ing} data standards.
(possessive; faulty parallelism) Most possessives have an apostrophe in them, but it's means it is (contraction).

11. The objectives are important; however, Geospatial One-Stop has focused on limited, near-term tasks.
(run-on sentence) first clause: objectives are...; second clause: Geospatial One-Stop has focused....
12. Although efforts to build the NSDI are progressing, achieving the vision of a nationwide GIS network remains a formidable challenge.
(complex sentence) Although (a subordinating conjunction) makes the first clause dependent. A dependent clause is not separated from an independent clause with a semicolon.
13. Developing standards, ^{that} ~~which~~ meet stakeholders' needs, remains a challenging and time-consuming task.
(restrictive clause) The clause restricts meaning to specific standards. Standards don't always meet stakeholders' needs.
14. Existing draft standards may need further revision, and more extensive coordination efforts may be required to ensure broad adoption at all levels of government.
(compound sentence with coordinating conjunction) first clause: standards may need; second clause: effort may be required
15. Developing standards will require a continuing effort over an extended period of time; significant investments have already been made in existing non-standard systems.
(compound sentence, no coordinating conjunction) comma splice. first clause: Developing...will require; second clause: investments have already been made
16. The federal government's efforts to coordinate GIS activities are ^{described} ~~included~~ in a report from the Government Accounting Office.
(possessive, faulty prediction) faulty complement. A report cannot "include" efforts. It can include an analysis or description or record of efforts. Thus, efforts...are described..., OR efforts are analyzed... OR A description of the efforts...is included...

Bonus (5 points):

Name two parts of speech that make a clause dependent, and give two examples of each:

1. relative pronoun: who, which, that

The pronoun must relate to something else in the sentence; thus it cannot be the subject of an independent clause.

2. subordinating conjunction: although, because, if, since, while...

The conjunction "joins" a clause that is subordinate to or dependent on another clause.

Comment: Can nouns and phrases such as "GIS" or "Office of Management and Budget" serve as the subjects of sentences and therefore as agents of action? Such usage is acceptable in English. These systems or offices are assumed to represent the people who work there. It's kind of a short hand way of saying "managers who work at OMB...."

Helv 18
cl b f

□ Developing and Implementing Geospatial Standards □

Times 10/12
x19 FL RR

Developing common geospatial standards to support vital public services ^{has} ~~have~~ proven to be a complex and time consuming effort. The amount of types of geospatial data and the complexity of those data make developing geospatial standards a daunting task. For example, 34 different broad categories of geospatial data, called "data themes" have been ~~identified~~ ^{necessary} ~~identified~~ as a ~~necessary~~ foundation for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure. These basic themes relate to all types of services provided by the Federal government—including climate, flood hazards, federal land ownership, public health, ^{insert comma} soils ^{has} and transportation. Each of these themes ~~have~~ ^{use em-dash} subthemes. The transportation theme, for example, includes such divergent subthemes as road, railroad, air, transit, and waterway; ^{delete comma, use semicolon} each is the domain of a different organization or group of organizations. For data associated with the NSDI's themes and subthemes to be effectively shared, ^{delete comma} standards must be ^{disparate} ~~disparate~~ developed that allow interoperability and integration of the many ~~disparate~~ formats of data currently collected for each theme and subtheme. The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) has been working to coordinate the development of these themes as well as other standards since it was ^{established} ~~established~~ thirteen years ago. Although ~~FGD~~ ^{FGD} has developed ^{seven framework} ~~7 frame-work~~ versions of several of these standards, it has not attempted to finalize a complete set of the ~~7 frame-work~~ standards. These framework standards would define the simplest level of geographic data commonly used in most geospatial data sets.

Style Sheet

A-H framework	I-P	Q-Z
numbers write out numbers under 10	spacing	misc