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.

The Indigenous Nations

4. Appositives

An appositive is a noun-phrase placed beside a noun to explain it more fully. It is a key tool in making your sentences more interesting and more concise; they are useful to convey a large amount of information in the minimum number of words.

Consider the two sentences.

> "The Iroquois lived in the north east. They were a farmer-gatherer community."

Using an appositive, this could be rendered:

> "The Iroquois, a farmer-gatherer community, lived in the north east."

Or "A farmer-gatherer community, the Iroquois lived in the north east."

1. Identify the appositive in the following sentences:

- The Pueblo, an ancient farming society, lived in cities built of adobe clay bricks.
- The Indigenous people of the south-east, the so-called 'Civilised Tribes', had adopted American ways.

2. Suggest suitable appositives to complete the following sentences:

- The Comanches, _____, built up an extensive area of influence called 'Comancheria'.
- Josiah Gregg, _____, found the Pueblo "a remarkably sober and industrious race".
- The Iroquois lived in longhouses, _____.

3. Create a sentence using the given appositive:

- fishers and hunters of the north-west
- a horse-based culture

4. Brainstorm a range of suggested appositives for 'Manifest Destiny' in the following sentence. Then decide which would be the best in the specific context of the sentence:

- The Indigenous nations of the Plains, _____, were attacked and destroyed by the *wašíču*.

5. One of the key features of my style of writing, and a main way in which I make my writing so dense, is the use of varied and complex appositives. This webpage contains some – can you find them?