Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Devon's essay shows multiple tells: 'confident vagueness' (no specific location, names, or dialogue — it could be anyone's essay), excessive hedging ('ultimately, I came to understand that resilience is a core human value'), perfectly balanced conclusion ('both the difficulty and the growth were equally valuable'), and complete absence of personal specificity — the three signature markers of AI-generated personal writing.

2. Ms. Reyes had no procedural violation to point to — no grammatical errors, no factual claims to verify. She could only articulate a subjective sense of hollowness, which Devon could easily dismiss as a matter of taste. This shows that the most damaging effect of AI writing in education isn't plagiarism in the traditional sense — it's the elimination of the authentic learning process while technically complying with surface requirements.

Multiple Choice

1. D

2. B

3. A

Matching

1-E, 2-C, 3-A, 4-B, 5-D

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) one-sided, 2) list, 3) specificity

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: Grammatical correctness is a strength — AI text is almost never grammatically wrong. But this becomes a tell because real human writing frequently contains the kinds of errors, fragments, and unconventional constructions that reflect genuine thought in process. Flawless grammar at the high school level, with no awkward sentence, is itself a minor red flag.

Q2: AI detection tools sometimes flag human writing — particularly from non-native speakers or people with certain writing styles — as AI-generated. This matters because falsely accusing a student of AI use based on a tool's output can cause serious harm. It means detection tools should always be treated as one signal among

many, never as definitive proof, and human judgment should remain central to any evaluation.

Q3: Caring produces specificity — a writer who cares will remember the exact word a person said, will note the color of the room, will have an opinion that surprises even themselves as they write. These specific, committed details are exactly what AI cannot generate because it has no genuine experience. The limit is that some skilled writers produce deliberately detached, general prose by choice, and some inexperienced writers produce honest but vague writing — so caring is a strong signal but not an infallible one.