Verb Tense Consistency

Purpose: Upon completion of this activity, students will understand the guidelines for verb tense consistency. This DLA should take approximately 30 to 45 minutes to complete.

1. Navigate to: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/601/04/

2. Carefully read the page on verb tense consistency. There is a good deal of information here; read for a clear understanding and take notes as needed.

3. Complete the following:
   
   A. Do not shift from one tense to another if the ____________ ____________ for each action or state is the same.

   B. Do shift tense to indicate a _______________ in time frame from one action or state to another.

   C. If the primary narration is in simple past, then action initiated before the time frame of the primary narration is described in _______________ _______________.

   D. If the primary narration is in simple present, then action initiated before the time frame of the primary narration is described in _______________ _______________.

   E. If the primary narration is in simple future, then action initiated before the time frame of the primary narration is described in _______________ _______________.

4. In the following passage from Alex Haley's Roots, some of the verbs have been deliberately omitted. Supply the appropriate tense for each missing verb, the plain form of which is given in brackets.

   In Banjuh, the capital of Gambia, I met with a group of Gambians. They [tell] me how for centuries the history of Africa has been preserved. In the older villages of the back country, there are old men called griots, who [be] in effect living archives. Such men [memorize] and, on special occasions, [recite] the cumulative histories of clans or families or villages as those histories [have] long been told. Since my forefather [have] said his name was Kin-tay (properly spelled Kinte), and since the Kinte clan [be] known in Gambia, the group of Gambians would see what they could do to help me. I was back in New York when a registered letter [arrive] from Gambia.
Words [have] been passed in the back country, and a griot of the Kinte clan [have], indeed, been found. His name, the letter said, [be] Kebba Kanga Fofana. I [return] to Gambia and [organize] a safari to locate him.

5. Review your answers with an instructor or tutor in the WRC. Have that person sign and date this sheet.

_______________________________________________    _______________________
Instructor/Tutor signature                          Date