EXERCISE: STRONG VERBS vs. WEAK VERBS

Fill in the blanks using the most descriptive or active verb phrase.

1. After working closely with my mentor, I _________ advanced techniques in oil painting.
   a) was beginning to master  
   b) began to master  
   c) mastered

2. My newspaper article on the labor strikes _________ both praise and criticism.
   a) generated  
   b) got  
   c) was the recipient of

3. Once I joined the debate team, I _________ the opportunity to compete every weekend.
   a) sought  
   b) had  
   c) was exposed to

4. Samuel’s touchdown _________ the stadium crowd.
   a) created much energy in  
   b) energized  
   c) really energized

5. Woolf’s essay _________ my opinion of gender inequality.
   a) challenged  
   b) made me take another look at  
   c) was challenging to

6. As Jessica drew near me, I _________ the baton and took off running.
   a) grasped  
   b) got  
   c) was given

7. Once my mother had fallen asleep, I _________ the dolls on her nightstand.
   a) put  
   b) arranged  
   c) set up

8. Chris and I _________ an educational project for first-graders in our community.
   a) began  
   b) started  
   c) initiated

9. “Why didn’t you ask me before throwing it away?” Jason _________.
   a) hollered  
   b) said angrily  
   c) started to yell

10. Mr. Franklin _________ that he was our true father.
   a) let us know  
   b) told us  
   c) revealed

Answers:
1) c; 2) a; 3) a; 4) b; 5) a; 6) c; 7) b; 8) c; 9) a; 10) c;