Text-Dependent Questions for Preface of Night by Elie Wiesel

After reading and annotating the Preface complete the following questions:

1. In paragraph one Wiesel states that “the past lingers in the present,” what do you think the author means by this phrase? Be specific and use textual evidence in your answer.

2. Wiesel proposes the question “Why did I write it [Night]?” What three reasons for writing Night does he suggest in paragraphs 3-5? Why do you think Wiesel presents his possible purposes for writing Night in the form of questions? Be specific and use textual evidence in your answer.

3. How does Wiesel describe himself regarding his survival in paragraph 6? Be specific and use textual evidence in your answer.

4. What reason does Wiesel give for his survival? Be specific and use textual evidence in your answer.

5. Reread paragraph 7. Based on the text, what is Wiesel’s purpose for writing Night? Use direct evidence in your answer. Be specific and use textual evidence in your answer.
6. How are words and language “an obstacle” (paragraph 10) for writing Night? Be specific and use textual evidence in your answer.

7. In paragraph 10, Wiesel uses the word “conjure” in the sentence, “I would conjure up other verbs, other images, other silent cries.” What is the literal meaning of conjure in this sentence? What is the figurative meaning? How does the word “conjure” and its connotative meaning add to the understanding of the sentence? Be specific and use textual evidence in your answer.

8. In paragraph 15, Wiesel writes “For all my attempts to articulate the unspeakable, “it” is still not right.” What is the “it” Wiesel refers to? Be specific and use textual evidence in your answer.

9. In paragraph 19 Wiesel states that “illusion—...is dangerous.” What is the “illusion” Wiesel is speaking of and why is it “dangerous”? Be specific and use textual evidence in your answer.

10. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said “Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.” Elie Wiesel makes a similar statement in paragraph 45 on the top of page xiii. What do you believe King and Wiesel mean focusing on the word “silent”? Be specific and use textual evidence in your answer.
11. In the last four paragraphs of the Preface, Wiesel presents the central idea to the text. What is the central idea? How do you know? Be specific and use textual evidence in your answer.

12. For your culminating task write a 3-chunk Schaffer paragraph addressing the following question: **What is Elie Wiesel’s purpose in writing *Night***? Develop a topic sentence/claim keeping in mind that you need to provide three concrete details/evidence and at least two sentences of commentary/reasoning for each concrete detail/evidence. Lastly, wrap up your position in a strong concluding sentence that includes the *So What?* (why important; implications).