

Name: _____

Date: _____

1.

Raise the Driving Age to Eighteen!

After reading Mr. J. Brown's letter, dated August 15, I feel compelled to write and let your readers know how I feel about raising the driving age from 16 to 18. Teenagers should not be allowed to drive until they are 18. Only high school graduates should be given a driver's license, and only after successfully completing a driver's education class during their senior year of high school.

Right now, 15 year-olds can get a practice permit and try for their license at 16. This is too young. Eighteen is a better age. At 18, people are more mature and better able to make mature decisions. This is obvious. Not all 18 year-olds are mature, but the majority of them are. At least we are more mature than 15 year-olds.

This passage establishes a context by

- A. referring to a previous letter to the editor.
- B. identifying specific age groups as evidence.
- C. explaining the usefulness of driver's education.
- D. building a case for the maturity of 18 year-olds.

2.

Andy's class went on a field trip to the mall to celebrate the end of the school year. On the whole, he thought it was a foolish place to go, since he could go there anytime. Besides, he brought no money. But his best friend, Samantha, did enjoy herself. In fact, she enjoyed herself so much that her enjoyment rubbed off on him. Andy will miss Samantha over the summer.

What is the unifying idea of this paragraph?

- A. boredom at the mall
- B. Andy's field trip to the mall
- C. the importance of friendship
- D. losing contact with friends over summer vacation

3.

Read the next chapter in your textbook. Then answer the questions at the end.

Which is the BEST way to combine the two sentences?

- A. Read the next chapter in the textbook and the questions at the end.
- B. Answer the questions at the end and then read the next chapter in your textbook.
- C. After you have answered the questions at the end, read the next chapter in the textbook.
- D. After you have read the next chapter in the textbook, answer the questions at the end.

4.

Raise the Driving Age to Eighteen!
by Mary O'Dell

Teenagers should not be allowed to drive until they are 18. Only high school graduates should be given a driver's license, and only after successfully completing a driver's education class during their senior year of high school. Right now, 15 year-olds can get a practice permit and try for their license at 16. Eighteen is a better age. At 18, people are more mature and better able to make mature decisions. Not all 18 year-olds are mature, but the majority of them are. At least we are more mature than fifteen-year-olds. I know many parents and students are concerned about being inconvenienced, but safety is more important than convenience. I am 18 now, but when I was fifteen, I was not mature enough to drive. I say let's make the roads and highways safer by keeping kids from behind the wheel until they turn 18.

Which of these sentences BEST states the author's position?

- A. Teenagers should not be allowed to drive until they are eighteen.
 - B. Graduating from high school demonstrates a high level of responsibility.
 - C. All future drivers should be required to take (and pass) a Drivers' Education class.
 - D. I learned how to parallel park and how to yield in traffic on the interstate.
-

5.

Franklin D. Roosevelt: Fourth Inaugural Address
by Franklin D. Roosevelt

Saturday, January 20, 1945

MR. Chief Justice, Mr. Vice President, my friends, you will understand and, I believe, agree with my wish that the form of this inauguration be simple and its words brief.

We Americans of today, together with our allies, are passing through a period of supreme test. It is a test of our courage; of our resolve; of our wisdom; our essential democracy. If we meet that test successfully and honorably, we shall perform a service of historic importance which men and women and children will honor throughout all time. As I stand here today, having taken the solemn oath of office in the presence of my fellow countrymen in the presence of our God, I know that it is America's purpose that we shall not fail. In the days and in the years that are to come we shall work for a just and honorable peace, a durable peace, as today we work and fight for total victory in war.

Which sentence BEST summarizes the speech?

- A. The President wants to strive for perfection.
 - B. The President is interested in making friends.
 - C. The President believes the Constitution is not perfect.
 - D. The President is committed to working to promote peace in the world.
-

6.

School Uniforms
by Mary O'Dell

Are school uniforms a good idea for public school students? Absolutely, and students should be required to wear them. Uniforms get rid of the distractions of designer clothes so students can concentrate on their studies. Uniforms also create an environment in which students will be judged on personality rather than fashion.

While attending a private school, I was mandated to wear uniforms. We had many students from all walks of life. As soon as the bell rang, however, our economic advantages or disadvantages were no longer obvious. We were able to concentrate on history and math instead of fashion and style. Aptitude and attitude were more important than my clothes. Our uniforms consisted of khaki pants and skirts, and dark blue knit cotton shirts and sweaters and sweatshirts. Our school colors were tan and dark blue, so wearing uniforms also created a sense of pride and school spirit.

People in the military wear uniforms. Our police and firefighters wear uniforms. Doctors and nurses wear uniforms. Almost everyone in the workplace wears a uniform. Your school is your job and your school is your workplace. Think about it.

Which of these sentences provides the BEST supporting detail for the author's position?

- A. Uniforms get rid of the distractions of designer clothes so students can concentrate on their studies.
- B. As soon as the bell rang, however, our economic advantages or disadvantages were no longer obvious.
- C. Our uniforms consisted of khaki pants and skirts, and dark blue knit cotton shirts and sweaters and sweatshirts.
- D. Our school colors were tan and dark blue so wearing uniforms also created a sense of pride and school spirit.

7.

Which fact is MOST likely to be found in a paragraph describing the sport of football?

- A. Football players make lots of money.
- B. Baseball is a sport played on a field.
- C. Football is made up of an offense and a defense.
- D. Football trading cards are popular items to collect.

8.

_____ are the apples from our orchard.

Which of the following correctly completes the sentence above?

- A. The
- B. Their
- C. Them
- D. These

9.

You have chosen to write a letter to the mayor to urge her to support a skate park in the town. Which of the following would be an irrelevant point to make?

- A. Some skaters become professionals who earn a lot of money.
 - B. The town's skaters deserve a safe place to gather and exercise.
 - C. Some foundations will provide funding for towns to build skate parks.
 - D. Skaters will not cause damage to other parks if they have a park designed for them.
-

10.

My niece has _____ happily in her bed for over an hour.

Which word correctly completes the sentence above?

- A. lie
 - B. lay
 - C. laid
 - D. lain
-

11. Which word or phrase is **not** a transition?

- A. he
 - B. but
 - C. although
 - D. rather than
-

12.

Soda Ban Issue

Hi. How is everyone doing tonight? I just wanted to take a few minutes to share with you my take on the soda ban issue that everyone has been talking about. I teach seventh grade math here at the school, and I think the proposed school ban on soda pop is a bit over the top. Why? Well, healthy eating habits begin at home, and here at school we, as teachers, can help by encouraging healthy choices. Soda may not be the healthiest choice, but a can of soda every now and again is okay.

We all want our children to be healthy and develop healthy eating habits. I know many of you are concerned about tooth decay and other health issues, but it's not like students are drinking soda all day long. Most students drink milk during lunch and water from the water fountain throughout the day. The vending machine room is not open in the morning, only at lunch and after school. At our school, all of the money from the soda machines pays for sports programs and the band program. If this ban goes into effect, where will the money come from to pay for these worthy programs? Before supporting this ban, I ask you to think about that.

Which phrase or sentence provides the best evidence that this passage is intended for an audience that is mostly made up of parents?

- A. ...here at school, we, as teachers, can help by encouraging healthy choices.
 - B. We all want our children to be healthy and develop healthy eating habits.
 - C. I know many of you are concerned about tooth decay and other health issues...
 - D. If this ban goes into effect, where will the money come from to pay for these worthy programs?
-

13. Maria is doing research for a paper on the paintings of the Dutch artist, Vincent Van Gogh. Which piece of information is **least** related to her topic?

- A. Van Gogh's paintings are filled with emotion.
 - B. Van Gogh painted both people and landscapes.
 - C. Van Gogh used bright colors and broad brush strokes.
 - D. Van Gogh's friend Gauguin was famous for his paintings set in Tahiti.
-

14.

Raise the Driving Age to Eighteen!

I know many parents and students are concerned about being inconvenienced by a higher driving age, but safety is more important than convenience. All future drivers should be required to take (and pass) a drivers' education class. Our high school has a great driver's ed. class. I took the class last semester, earned an A, and learned many helpful things. I learned how to parallel park and how to yield in traffic on the interstate. I also learned about the importance of driving the speed limit. I didn't realize how much I didn't know about safety and the rules of the road until I took the class.

We only had about 15 students in my class. Half of them didn't pay attention. One time we had a guest speaker come and give a slideshow presentation. He was a highway patrol officer. He spoke about the dangers of reckless driving and showed us some very graphic pictures about what can go wrong on the road. He was a very good speaker, but hardly anyone in the class took the time to listen. I am eighteen now, but when I was fifteen I was not mature enough to drive. No way!

Why is the statement "We only had about 15 in my class" irrelevant or off topic for this paper?

- A. It gives a fact or statistic to prove the author's point.
 - B. The fifteen students in the class were safer after completing the course.
 - C. The number of students in a class does not prove or disprove the author's point.
 - D. The fifteen students who took the course may not have learned enough to become safe drivers.
-

15.

Which sentence shows correct usage of commas?

- A. In fact she did not have, her homework.
 - B. In fact, she did not have, her homework.
 - C. In fact, she did not have her homework.
 - D. In fact she did not, have her homework.
-

16.

The word stalk is a homonym because it

- A. is sometimes spelled incorrectly.
 - B. rhymes with other words.
 - C. can have two meanings.
 - D. is a verb.
-

17.

Dan walked past Myra without saying a word. He had wanted to ask her to the dance. But at the last minute his hands had gotten sweaty and his heart started to pound. Instead of smiling at her as he had intended, making conversation, and casually bringing up the dance, he had acted as if he had never seen her before.

Which sentence could be added as the closing sentence for this paragraph?

- A. He felt like a total fool.
 - B. Math was Dan's next class.
 - C. None of Dan's friends liked to dance.
 - D. He needed to get his homework done.
-

18.

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Right now, 15 year-olds can get a practice permit and try for their license at 16. This is too young. Eighteen is a better age. At 18, people are more mature and better able to make mature decisions. This is obvious. Not all 18 year-olds are mature, but the majority of them are. At least we are more mature than 15 year-olds.

Therefore, I hope your readers who agree with me will speak up and let their opinion be heard.

How does the following sentence provide a sense of closure for the paragraph? *Therefore, I hope your readers who agree with me will speak up and let their opinion be heard.*

- A. It lets the reader know how the writer feels about the issue.
 - B. It provides a counter argument to reader's concerns or opinions.
 - C. It calls the reader to complete a task in relation to the issue.
 - D. It states a clear position on the issue of raising the driving age.
-

19. Which sentence is written correctly?

- A. Jon said I want to go camping.
 - B. Jon said, "I want to go camping."
 - C. "Jon said that he wants to go camping."
 - D. Jon said that "he wants to go camping."
-

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Soda Ban Issue

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The sentence "How is everyone doing tonight?" sets an informal tone because

- A. it provides a focus.
- B. it is a polite greeting.
- C. it shows the audience the speaker is a friend.
- D. it makes the audience feel like the speaker cares.

21.

Which is a sentence fragment?

- A. A barometer measures air pressure.
- B. Because of the rising temperatures.
- C. Take the measurement of the air pressure.
- D. The measurement will be taken at the summer solstice.

22.

When the families of the neighborhood decided to build a playground they wanted to please everyone. The toddlers got their sandbox. Similarly, the older children got swings and a slide. But what the teenagers wanted (and they were on the planning committee) was a safe place to go roller-skating and skateboarding. They got their wish. Even some of the adults joined in.

What is the unifying idea of this paragraph?

- A. neighborhood unity
- B. skateboarders' rights
- C. a playground for everyone
- D. roller-skating in the adult population

23.

I gave the book to my sister who read it in a week.

Which change is needed to correct this sentence?

- A. Capitalize the word sister.
 - B. Capitalize the word week.
 - C. Put a comma after the word sister.
 - D. Put commas after the words book and sister.
-

24.

¹Our kitchen is unattractive and impractical. ²It has bright yellow countertops that are far too low to be comfortable, and there is not enough countertop space for cooking. ³Also, there is only one outlet above the countertop. ⁴For example, one opens directly into the oven so it can't be opened all the way. ⁵The homemade cabinets are ugly and they are not well-designed. ⁶This shows that the cabinets were not properly designed. ⁷In addition, there is not nearly enough storage space for food, or pots, pans, and dishes. ⁸We even had to take the doors off one of the cabinets so that the microwave would fit inside, because it had been sitting on the floor. ⁹Other problems with the kitchen include poor lighting, crumbling walls, no dishwasher, and no garbage disposal. ¹⁰Finally, the floor is worn and always looks dirty, and the lower half of the walls are covered with some kind of fake tile paneling. ¹¹We could really use a new kitchen.

Which two sentences are in the wrong order?

- A. sentences 1 and 2
 - B. sentences 4 and 5
 - C. sentences 8 and 9
 - D. sentences 10 and 11
-

25.

After the people in the stands at the football game saw the injured player return, _____ began to clap and cheer.

Which answer choice completes the sentence correctly?

- A. it
- B. he
- C. we
- D. they

Answer Key

1. A) referring to a previous letter to the editor.
2. C) the importance of friendship
3. D) After you have read the next chapter in the textbook, answer the questions at the end.
4. A) Teenagers should not be allowed to drive until they are eighteen.
5. D) The President is committed to working to promote peace in the world.
6. A) Uniforms get rid of the distractions of designer clothes so students can concentrate on their studies.
7. C) Football is made up of an offense and a defense.
8. D) These
9. A) Some skaters become professionals who earn a lot of money.
10. D) lain
11. A) he
12. B) We all want our children to be healthy and develop healthy eating habits.
13. D) Van Gogh's friend Gauguin was famous for his paintings set in Tahiti.
14. C) The number of students in a class does not prove or disprove the author's point.
15. C) In fact, she did not have her homework.
16. C) can have two meanings.
17. A) He felt like a total fool.
18. C) It calls the reader to complete a task in relation to the issue.
19. B) Jon said, "I want to go camping."
20. D) it makes the audience feel like the speaker cares.
21. B) Because of the rising temperatures.
22. C) a playground for everyone
23. C) Put a comma after the word sister.
24. B) sentences 4 and 5
25. D) they