

Name: _____

Date: _____

1.

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.

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.

2. Which sentence is punctuated incorrectly?

- A. I would like to study to be an engineer in college.
- B. The orange brown and yellow fall colors are here.
- C. Mrs. Jones, my history teacher, is out sick with a cold today.
- D. The wintry wind is howling outside the living room window.

3.

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

4.

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.
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5.

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.
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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.

Why is Harry Potter so popular? When the latest book in the series by J.K. Rowling came out, bookstores held parties and kids and their parents stood in line to get copies. Kids who rarely read in their spare time couldn't wait to get their hands on the latest volume. What is it that makes Harry so appealing?

Well, Harry goes to a boarding school for wizards, for starters. He rides a broomstick, takes classes on how to cast spells, has a cloak that makes him invisible, and must battle an evil wizard. But he's also a normal boy. He doesn't always do his homework. He's got some obnoxious relatives. He has a fight with his best friend. Part of his appeal is that he's an ordinary kid in many ways (except for the broomstick). Harry just happens to lead a more exciting life than most!

According to the second paragraph, what interpretation can be made about Harry Potter?

- A. Harry has unpleasant relatives.
- B. Harry goes to boarding school.
- C. Harry is a wizard, but also an ordinary kid.
- D. Harry rides a broomstick, learns how to cast spells, and fights an evil wizard.

8.

Painting Donated to Zion National Park

by www.nps.gov

A 1903 oil landscape painting of Zion Canyon by Frederick S. Dellenbaugh has been added to Zion National Park's museum collection. The painting was purchased with a grant from the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation and donated by the Zion National Park Foundation, the newly created fundraising arm of the Zion Natural History Association. The painting is a rare representation of Zion Canyon before it was established as Mukuntuweap National Monument in 1909. It will be on temporary exhibit in the Zion Human History Museum through September 30 and then sent for conservation treatment in preparation for exhibit during the 2009 centennial celebration of the park. Dellenbaugh served as an assistant topographer with Major John Wesley Powell's second expedition of the Colorado River from 1871-1873.

Which sentence could be removed from the passage without affecting the reader's understanding of the main idea?

- A. The painting is a rare representation of Zion Canyon before it was established as Mukuntuweap National Monument in 1909.
 - B. A 1903 oil landscape painting of Zion Canyon by Frederick S. Dellenbaugh has been added to Zion National Park's museum collection.
 - C. Dellenbaugh served as an assistant topographer with Major John Wesley Powell's second expedition of the Colorado River from 1871-1873.
 - D. The painting was purchased with a grant from the George S. and Dolores Dore Eccles Foundation and donated by the Zion National Park Foundation, the newly created fundraising arm of the Zion Natural History Association.
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9.

For years, the Empire State Building were the tallest building in the world.

Which change makes the above sentence correct?

- A. change were to is
 - B. change were to are
 - C. change were to was
 - D. change tallest to taller
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10.

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.

Answer Key

1. D) it makes the audience feel like the speaker cares.
2. B) The orange brown and yellow fall colors are here.
3. C) the importance of friendship
4. C) Put a comma after the word sister.
5. A) Teenagers should not be allowed to drive until they are eighteen.
6. A) Uniforms get rid of the distractions of designer clothes so students can concentrate on their studies.
7. C) Harry is a wizard, but also an ordinary kid.

8. C) Dellenbaugh served as an assistant topographer with Major John Wesley Powell's second expedition of the Colorado River from 1871-1873.
9. C) change were to was
10. A) Some skaters become professionals who earn a lot of money.