

Read the following passages, then answer the questions which follow.

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Reading for Thinking: Paraphrasing Topic Sentences

1. There are those who claim the American dollar bill's symbol of a pyramid topped with an eye bears a secret meaning. However, the pyramid was never meant to be mysterious. On the contrary, the pyramid on the dollar bill was a carefully chosen symbol designed to characterize the United States as a place of progress and faith. The Roman numerals on the pyramid base refer to 1776, the year the country was founded. The pyramid is also unfinished, representing our country's future growth. The eye in a triangle radiating light represents the overseeing eye of a deity. The motto above the pyramid, "Annuit Coeptis," means "He has favored our undertakings." Below the pyramid, the motto "Novus Ordo Seclorum" means "a new order of the ages."

Which of the following best paraphrases the topic sentence?

- a. All of the images printed on the \$1 bill symbolize America's principles and goals.
 - b. The pyramid and eye on the back of the \$1 bill was carefully created to represent American values.
 - c. The dollar's symbolism is typical of American currency.
 - d. American currency should be redesigned to better reflect our country's separation of church and state.
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2. In her famous 1969 book, *On Death and Dying*, author Elisabeth Kübler-Ross identified five stages of death (denial, anger, bargaining, depression, acceptance). Ever since the publication of that best seller, Kübler-Ross's five stages have generally been accepted as accurate, even scientific. Recently, however, Kübler-Ross's well-known sequence has come under fire, in part because more attention is being paid to the eccentric views on death, she publicly expressed starting in the 1970s. For instance, Kübler-Ross began claiming that death did not exist at all. Inspired by what she claimed was an "out of body" experience, she started talking about death as the fountain of youth. From her new perspective, death was not an end but the beginning of spiritual renewal, a time when people would "become complete again." Her description of death as a "sixth stage," where people refreshed themselves before returning to the living was criticized as irrational nonsense. Kübler-Ross's

critics worried that she might be encouraging those of her fans who had psychological problems to embrace death as a way out of their pain. With more attention being paid to Kübler-Ross's unusual views, it's not surprising that her notions about death are being taken less seriously.

Which of the following best paraphrases the topic sentence?

- a. Elisabeth Kübler-Ross helped generations of people conquer their fear of dying.
 - b. Elisabeth Kübler-Ross was never afraid of expressing unpopular points of view.
 - c. Elisabeth Kübler-Ross's unusual personal beliefs have caused many people to dismiss her conclusions about the five stages of death.
 - d. Elisabeth Kübler-Ross was oddly obsessed with death and dying.
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3. One of the best-known first pets was Fala, Franklin D. Roosevelt's black Scottish terrier. The dog went everywhere with Roosevelt, once making the news when he was accidentally left behind on a trip to the Aleutian Islands. Roosevelt's Republican opponents accused him of spending \$8 million to send a destroyer back to fetch the dog. The president's humorous defense of his dog only increased his popularity and probably helped Roosevelt win his historic fourth term. But Fala is not the only famous first pet; a number of other presidential pets have earned the public's notice. President Richard Nixon's dog Checkers, for instance, has been credited with saving his political career. In a speech on national television, Nixon defended accusations of financial irregularities by acknowledging the receipt of just one personal gift, a dog named Checkers. Nixon also claimed he would never give Checkers up. Gerald Ford's dog Liberty was so popular, the cast of the TV comedy show *Saturday Night Live* often included Liberty in their skits about the president. Millie, the springer spaniel of George and Barbara Bush, appeared as the author of a New York Times bestseller. First Lady Hillary Clinton increased the fame of the Clinton's first pets with her book "Dear Socks, Dear Buddy: Kids' Letters to the First Pets."

Which of the following best paraphrases the topic sentence?

- a. Franklin D. Roosevelt's dog Fala was America's most famous First Pet.
- b. Fala was the best-known of all the presidential pets.
- c. Presidential pets are often in the news.

d. Several First Pets have achieved fame while residing in the White House.

4. Despite his failure as a presidential candidate, Ohio Congressman Dennis J. Kucinich's suggestion that we establish a new Department of Peace within the federal government deserves serious consideration. A Department of Peace might help stop the senseless loss of life occurring all over the globe. If we in the United States develop more peaceful ways to coexist with other nations, we might influence others as well. A Department of Peace could, for example, study the conditions that promote both domestic and international harmony. A Department of Peace could also sponsor conflict prevention and resolution initiatives in war-torn countries. It could establish a Peace Academy to train people in nonviolent conflict resolution. All of these measures could ultimately save lives here at home and abroad.

Which of the following best paraphrases the topic sentence?

a. For two reasons, Congress should create a Department of Peace.

b. A Department of Peace might help put an end to global bloodshed.

c. Congressman Dennis Kucinich is a creative problem solver with vision.

d. The U.S. government focuses too much on war and not enough on peace.

5. Several grueling races around the globe test the limits of human endurance. For instance, the Marathon des Sables is an ultramarathon held every April in Morocco. It covers 150 miles in 6 days through blazing heat and some of the most difficult conditions imaginable. One participant said, "The most difficult part was waking up at 5 a.m. with your legs so sore you can hardly stand up, feet blistered, bloodied, and bandaged, and then having to run a marathon in 120-plus degree heat with a 20-pound pack." In the Sahara Marathon, participants run 26 miles on sand roads through the harsh and unforgiving Sahara Desert. The Jungle Marathon is a 7-day, 124-mile race through the Amazon jungle of Brazil. For runners who prefer cooler climates, the Pike's Peak Marathon is known as one of the toughest in the world, for participants must run 26.3 miles up a mountain in Colorado, ascending 7,815 feet. The Everest Marathon is a 26.2-mile race over the rough mountain terrain of Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the world. Runners can also participate in the North Pole Marathon, a 26.2-mile run over Arctic ice floes in sub-zero temperatures.

Which of the following best paraphrases the topic sentence?

- a. Marathon runners are the most physically fit people in the world.
- b. Some marathon runners prefer races in hot climates, while others prefer racing in cold climates.
- c. The Marathon des Sables is the world's most difficult race.
- d. Many marathon races held all over the world force participants to push themselves practically to the end of human endurance

Reading for Thinking: Recognizing Mixed Patterns

1. Studies have revealed that, on average, about 8 minutes elapse between the collapse of someone suffering from cardiac arrest, or heartbeat cessation, and the first shock delivered by paramedics in order to return the heart to its normal rhythm. The time that elapses from a 911 telephone call to notification of the paramedic crew is about 0.6 minutes. It then takes an average of 4.2 minutes for the paramedics to arrive at the scene. The paramedics need 0.9 minutes to get to the patient's side. A heart analysis takes the next 1.6 minutes. The time between this analysis and the delivery of the first shock used to regulate the heartbeat is 0.3 minutes. This total of 7.6 minutes costs lives. The data shows that if a victim is shocked six or more minutes after collapsing, he or she almost always dies. If the victim is shocked within six minutes after having the heart attack, he or she almost always lives.

Patterns:

- a. time order (dates and events), definition, classification
- b. time order (process) with cause and effect
- c. time order (process) with classification

2. Since the nineteenth century, San Francisco Bay's Alcatraz Island has been home to a military fort, a military prison, a famous federal prison, and a national park. In the early 1850s, the U.S. Army constructed a fortress on the island to protect San Francisco Bay. By the late 1850s, the military began housing prisoners on the island, and in 1909, the Army tore down the fortress and built a new military prison on its foundation. This prison building, which was completed in 1911, became known as "The Rock." In 1933, the U.S. Department of Justice wanted to show the American public that it was serious about dealing with the crime wave that had swept the nation in the 1920s and 1930s. Therefore, it designated the island for use as a maximum-security, minimum-privilege U.S. Penitentiary for the most dangerous of federal prison inmates. For the next 29 years, several well-known criminals—including Al Capone and other notorious gangsters—did time on Alcatraz. During this period, there were fourteen separate escape attempts. Although none of them officially succeeded, five prisoners were never found and were presumed drowned. By the 1960s, the government concluded that building a new institution would be more cost-effective than keeping the expensive Alcatraz open.

Consequently, on March 21, 1963, the Alcatraz penitentiary closed. The island was abandoned until 1972, when it became part of the National Park Service. Today, more than a million people visit the island each year.

Patterns:

- a. definition and cause and effect
- b. time order (dates and events) with cause and effect
- c. comparison and contrast, definition, and classification

3. According to the National Hurricane Center, a hurricane is a tropical cyclone with several distinct characteristics. A hurricane is always born in tropical areas of the Atlantic Ocean near the equator. It is cyclonic, which means that its winds swirl around a central eye, or low-pressure area. When these winds reach a sustained speed of at least 74 miles per hour, the storm is defined as a hurricane. Most hurricanes originate off the coast of Africa as thunderstorms that move out over the warm, tropical waters of the ocean. The thunderstorm begins to draw warm, humid ocean air into itself. Then, this moist air condenses, releasing heat in the process. As the heat moves from the surface into the atmosphere, winds begin to circulate around a center. The wind speeds continue to increase as high-pressure air in the atmosphere above the storm's center is sucked into the low-pressure center of the storm. The hurricane moves westward toward higher latitudes as it grows larger and stronger.

Patterns:

- a. definition, time order (process), cause and effect
- b. classification and cause and effect
- c. comparison and contrast, time order (dates and events) and classification

Reading for Thinking: Drawing Conclusions

1. In the 1960s and 1970s, the threat of the draft and opposition to the Vietnam War stimulated political activism among young Americans. Many college students, in particular, participated in sit-ins, protest marches, and other kinds of political demonstrations. Not surprisingly, young voter turnout was very high in the elections of that era. In the 1972 election, for example, 55 percent of Americans aged 18 to 24 voted. By the year 2000, however, young citizens had become the group least likely to vote. In the presidential election that year, only a little more than a third of 18- to 24-year-olds cast a ballot. Therefore, prior to the 2004 presidential election, several media campaigns—including "Vote or Die," "Choose or Lose," "Slacker Uprising," and the MTV music channel's "Rock the Vote"—began promoting voter registration and political participation among young people. Just before the election occurred, the Youth Vote Coalition, a Washington-based, independent advocacy group, reported that 60 percent of all young adults had said they planned to vote. The actual number of 18- to 24-year-old voters, according to the Center for Information

and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE), was about 10.5 million, or 42.3 percent of eligible voters under 25.

From this passage, a reader might logically draw which conclusion?

- ☐ a. Modern young Americans are as politically active as young people of the 1960s and 1970s were.
 - ☐ b. Media campaigns helped to increase youth voter turnout for the 2004 election.
 - ☐ c. Political activism is not as important now as it was back in the 1960s and 1970s.
 - ☐ d. For young people, voting is something their parents do.
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2. Laws mandate that truck drivers can drive only eleven hours at a time, with a 60-hour-per-week maximum. Airline pilots can fly only eight hours in a 24-hour period, with a 30-hour-per-week maximum. In hospitals, though, medical interns and residents regularly work 100-hour weeks, including 30-hour shifts. According to studies reported in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, these sleep-deprived interns are prone to making more medical mistakes. In the coronary and intensive care units of Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital, for example, interns who worked 24-hour shifts and a total of 80 hours per week made six times as many diagnostic errors and 36 percent more medical errors—such as ordering incorrect dosages of a medication—than interns who worked 16-hour shifts and only 63 hours per week. As a result, many people claim that intern hours should be limited, because allowing severely fatigued doctors-in-training to care for patients can result in deadly mistakes. Hospital and medical professionals, however, argue that the establishment of mandatory caps on working hours could actually produce the very same effect. Surgeon Matt Martin, past president of the North Carolina chapter of the American College of Surgeons, has argued that limiting working hours limits residents' and interns' experience, "sacrificing valuable opportunities for learning and exposure to medicine." Therefore, when doctors-in-training work less, they do not gain the necessary knowledge resulting from long hours of continuous patient care. According to Martin, limiting hours would require extending training programs another year or two to ensure the completion of a new doctor's education. He also argues that medicine is not a 9-to-5 job and that doctors must learn to perform well under adverse conditions, including their own fatigue.

From this passage, a reader might logically draw which conclusion?

- ☐ a. Dr. Martin would be likely to advocate the elimination of limits on working hours for truck drivers and pilots.
 - ☐ b. Dr. Martin would agree that a 30-hour shift for an intern or resident is unreasonably long.
 - ☐ c. Dr. Martin would probably agree that a tired but well-trained doctor can still be an effective doctor.
 - ☐ d. Dr. Martin believes that current medical training programs are not long enough.
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3. For some time now, computers and cell phones have helped teenagers build and maintain relationships with their peers. However, many young people are also using these technological tools to become "cyberbullies." Through e-mail messages, weblogs, and instant messaging, they pursue peers they dislike into the schoolyard and beyond, attacking them through insults, name calling, and gossip. Because many adolescents forward their instant messages to their cell phones, some young people are being subjected to constant harassment, no matter where they go. According to psychologists, this form of online taunting is particularly vicious because of the distance between bully and victim. With advanced technology, bullies can humiliate, embarrass, or inflict pain upon their prey without being forced to see the consequences. Add to the mix teenagers' characteristic impulsiveness, and the result is an increased and more brutal level of electronic attacks. According to Rosalind Wiseman, author of *Queen Bees and Wannabees*, online bullying is especially attractive to young girls. Wiseman believes that girls, more than boys, like to inflict emotional wounds while avoiding direct confrontation.

From this passage, a reader might logically draw which conclusion?

- ☐ a. We're cyberbullying teenagers forced to witness the consequences of their actions, they might not be so ready to torment their peers.
 - ☐ b. Among teenagers, technological tools like computers and cell phones do more harm than good.
 - ☐ c. Cyberbullying often leads to an increase in traditional, physical bullying.
 - ☐ d. Rosalind Wiseman would say that girls are as likely as boys are to start fist fights with their adversaries.
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4. Why do thieves steal art masterpieces from museums or private collectors' homes? Unlike gold or jewels, a famous painting, easily recognized as one created by say Rembrandt, Picasso, or Degas, cannot be sold on the legitimate market, no matter how much it is worth. Nor can it be displayed as a trophy. Sooner or later, word of its location would get back to the rightful owner. Nevertheless, criminals persist in stealing famous masterpieces even though some soon find out that the painting is a burden and end up discarding it because it can't be sold. Other thieves, however, try to use artworks in underworld deals, exchanging them for drugs, forged documents, or illegal weapons. Still other criminals use the paintings to gain prestige among their colleagues. In fact, stolen works are occasionally recovered because a robber brags about the crime, and someone tells the police in exchange for a reward.

From this passage, a reader might logically draw which conclusion?

- ☐ a. Offering a reward for a stolen artwork is a waste of time.
- ☐ b. Drug dealers tend to be knowledgeable about fine art.
- ☐ c. For art thieves, paintings are more valuable than other forms of art.
- ☐ d. Art thieves can sometimes be vain about their accomplishments.

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5. Adults in France routinely eat dishes loaded with high-fat cream, butter, cheese, and meat. They don't count calories or carbohydrates, and they don't spend hours in the gym working out. Yet, only 10 percent of French people are obese, compared to 33 percent of Americans. Ironically, the French also live longer and have lower death rates from heart disease. What is behind this "French paradox," as it has been called? Anne Barone, author of *Chic and Slim: How Those French Women Eat all that Rich Food and Still Stay Slim*, says that sense of personal style keeps French women svelte. While they don't restrict their food choices, they do consciously limit how much they eat because they want to look good in sexy lingerie and fashionable clothing. Of course, it helps that French portion sizes in restaurants are smaller. One study, for example, found that French meals are only 75 percent the size of meals served in Philadelphia restaurants. In the United States, a hot dog is 63 percent larger than a hot dog in France, and a croissant made in America is 100 percent larger than one made in France. Psychologist Paul Rozin says, "People tend to consume what is put in front of them, and [they] generally consume more when offered more food." Others, however, believe that the root of the French paradox is the overall attitude about eating that pervades French culture. The French don't gulp food on the go, eat at their desks, or take their meals in front of the television. They

sit down to regular meals, usually with family members or friends. The French are also inclined to eat slowly, savoring the experience of good food combined with good company. Thus, researchers at the University of Pennsylvania found that the French take much longer to eat than Americans do. Yet even though a lunch might last two hours, the French still manage to eat less than Americans do in a rushed, 15-minute mid-day meal. Plus, unlike Americans, the French do not snack between meals.

From this passage, a reader might logically draw which conclusion?

- ☐ a. Anne Barone would agree with Paul Rozin's claim that people mindlessly eat whatever is put in front of them.
- ☐ b. If Americans ate out more in good restaurants, they would probably be a lot slimmer.
- ☐ c. University of Pennsylvania researchers would agree that high-calorie, high-fat fast food restaurant meals are a major cause of obesity in America.
- ☐ d. If Americans sat down to eat more home-cooked meals with their families, their obesity rate might decrease.

Reading for Thinking: Identifying Purpose and Tone

1. Celebrity photographers, also known as paparazzi, have gone too far in their quest to snap pictures of the stars. Everyone—even celebrities—should have the right to privacy, yet photographers routinely hound famous people everywhere they go. The creepiest of these photographers are not above following their prey into bathrooms or climbing trees to get shots of celebrities in their own homes. This constant invasion forces the rich and famous to become rude and mean, setting a bad example for their often-youthful fans. Even worse, though, the paparazzi's behavior is frequently downright dangerous and irresponsible. One newspaper recently reported that pop singer Britney Spears was forced to drive 90 miles an hour in an attempt to outrun relentless photographers. And who can forget that in 1997, England's Princess Diana was killed in a car accident while her driver tried to evade the

paparazzi in a high-speed chase. People may crave pictures of the stars, but most readers certainly would not want them at the expense of a celebrity's safety. Newspapers and magazines should cease paying for these kinds of photos while photographers who put celebrities in harm's way should be arrested for stalking.

The author's purpose is:

- ☐ a. to inform
- ☐ b. to persuade

The author's tone is:

- ☐ a. emotionally neutral
- ☐ b. admiring
- ☐ c. indignant
- ☐ d. amused

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2. In the cruel aftermath of World War II, the Marshall Plan saved Europe from economic and political disaster. In June 1947, then Secretary of State George Marshall announced that the United States would give aid to war-torn Europe by funding a massive aid program designed to restore European prosperity and security. This aid, which totaled \$12.4 billion by the time the plan ended in 1951, required that the foreign aid be spent in the United States on American-made goods. Thus, it not only stimulated impressive European industrial production and investment, it also boosted the American economy. In helping Europe get back on its feet and grow again economically, the Marshall Plan was more than a humanitarian effort. It also kept economically depressed European nations from turning to communism for a solution to their problems. Thus, Marshall's plan helped contain the spread of communism, the central goal of the Cold War, and at

the same time won the U.S. countless friends and fans abroad.

The author's purpose is:

- ☐ a. to inform
- ☐ b. to persuade

The author's tone is:

- ☐ a. emotionally neutral
 - ☐ b. admiring
 - ☐ c. surprised
 - ☐ d. skeptical
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3. When they thought national security was at stake, several American presidents intentionally curtailed the Constitutional rights of U.S. citizens. Second president John Adams, for instance, signed the Alien and Sedition Acts. These four laws, passed by Congress in 1798, authorized the expulsion from the country of any alien who was considered dangerous. The laws also restricted the press's right to criticize the government. During the Civil War (1860-1865), President Abraham Lincoln also limited Americans' personal liberty when he suspended the writ of habeas corpus, the law that protects citizens from being wrongly imprisoned. President Woodrow Wilson, much praised for his leadership during World War I, allowed his attorney general to conduct the Palmer raids of 1918, a government roundup of those who were foreign born or involved in political activism. During World War II Franklin D. Roosevelt agreed to the forced relocation of thousands of Japanese-Americans despite there being no evidence that they were spies. Like his predecessors, Roosevelt believed that special measures were necessary during wartime.

The author's purpose is:

☐ a. to inform

☐ b. to persuade

The author's tone is:

☐ a. fearful

☐ b. angry

☐ c. admiring

☐ d. emotionally neutral

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4. According to a 1999 study conducted by a University of Florida professor, every year, more than 200 international matchmaking services operating in the United States arrange about 6,000 marriages between American men and foreign women. Most of these women, commonly referred to as "mail-order brides," come from the former Soviet Union, Southeast Asia, and Latin America. The matchmaking industry persuades the women that wealthy American husbands will provide them a better life. To its male customers, the industry markets an image of an "exotic" but submissive wife who will be easy to control. Despite criticism that mail-order marriages encourage the stereotype of dominant men and submissive women, many of these matches do seem to be successful. However, a few recent cases of domestic violence and even murder have given the mail-order bride industry a bad name and prompted women's and immigrants' rights groups to complain that the industry lacks adequate regulation. Yet there are no statistics on the extent of the abuse suffered by mail-order brides, and some people claim that the men are actually the ones who are most often victimized by mail-order marriages. The claim is that foreign women agree to marry American men only to gain U.S. citizenship. Then they falsely report physical abuse so that they can divorce but remain in the country. Both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives have introduced legislation that

would require American men seeking mail-order brides to submit to criminal background checks and disclose any prior history of domestic violence incidents.

The author's purpose is:

- ☐ a. to inform
- ☐ b. to persuade

The author's tone is:

- ☐ a. emotionally neutral
- ☐ b. disgusted
- ☐ c. sad
- ☐ d. suspicious

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5. Car alarms are a public nuisance. Their persistent and disruptive noise has been shown to boost stress hormones that are linked to physiological illness and psychological distress. Studies also show that children regularly exposed to car alarm noise have difficulty concentrating on quiet tasks like reading. Because car alarm noise makes people irritable, it also increases the tendency to be impatient and rude. In short, noisy car alarms are helping erode public civility. And for what? For nothing. According to police, criminologists, insurance companies, auto manufacturers, and even car thieves themselves, car alarms are next to useless. A 1997 analysis of insurance claims from 73 million vehicles concluded that alarms did not deter car theft. No one pays any attention to car alarms anymore because 95 to 99 percent of the alarms are false. According to the Progressive Insurance Company, fewer than 1 percent of people surveyed say that they would call the police if they heard a car alarm. Plus, today's car thieves are professionals undeterred by the presence of alarms, which they can readily disable when necessary. Consequently, GM, Ford, and other manufacturers have begun to stop putting

alarms in their cars. This is their way of acknowledging that the alarms are nothing but "noisemakers." It's outrageous that audible car alarms continue to needlessly reduce our quality of life. They should be made illegal immediately.

The author's purpose is:

- ☐ a. to inform
- ☐ b. to persuade

The author's tone is:

- ☐ a. emotionally neutral
- ☐ b. irritated
- ☐ c. amused
- ☐ d. puzzled

Reading for Thinking :Analyzing Arguments: Discovering the Point

Directions: Read each passage to identify the point of the argument.

1. Thirty-one states in the U.S. permit voters to submit absentee ballots up to 40 days before elections actually take place, and those who request an absentee ballot do not even have to give a reason for their early vote. Despite the ease and frequency of this practice, voters should not cast early ballots unless they have a truly legitimate reason, such as being physically unable to get to a polling place. Casting early ballots is bad practice because it makes fraud more possible. Millions of ballots floating around America for over a month create the potential for a serious security breach. For example, an unscrupulous elections employee could make ballots disappear or fill in signed but unmarked ballots. Early voting also prevents citizens from taking into account any late developments

a campaign. Something could happen shortly before Election Day and change a voter's opinion about the right candidate to elect, but the absentee ballot has already locked in his or her vote. Then, too, Election Day is one of our country's last remaining ways of displaying communal patriotism. No-excuse absentee balloting prevents citizens from celebrating and showing pride in our democracy by being at the polls with our fellow Americans.

To be sure, advocates of early voting say it increases voter participation; however, no evidence supports that claim. On the contrary, since 1992, every state with liberal rules for absentee ballots has actually experienced worse voter turnout than states without such rules.

Which of the following statements best expresses the opinion argued in this passage?

- ☐ a. Absentee voting diminishes communal patriotism.
- ☐ b. Current absentee voting rules have resulted in fraud.
- ☐ c. Absentee voting should be abolished.
- ☐ d. Americans without a legitimate excuse should wait until Election Day to vote.

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2. Americans rarely just sit and eat. In a national poll, 62 percent of people surveyed admitted to being too busy to sit down for a meal. Many reported eating lunch while working at their desks or eating while driving. According to nutritionists, though, this practice is unhealthy. For one thing, it tends to make us fat. Not focusing on the food we are eating while we consume it prevents us from feeling completely satisfied when we finish. As a result, we eat more. In addition, eating quickly while performing other tasks prevents us from realizing how much we are eating. Thus, we often consume more calories than we need or even want, and the pounds add up. Robbing ourselves of time to eat a meal without doing anything else squanders opportunities to rest and enjoy life. We also miss chances

to connect with our friends and family members over shared meals. For all of these reasons, say nutritionists, we should view meals as a chance to turn everything off, sit at the table, and concentrate on enjoying the food and the company

Which of the following statements best expresses the opinion argued in this passage?

- ☐ a. Eating while reading is the main cause of obesity in America.
- ☐ b. Eating while driving only encourages us to eat more than we should.
- ☐ c. Eating while working is physically harmful.
- ☐ d. Americans need to relearn the ability to enjoy a meal.

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3. The Miss America pageant organizers and the ABC broadcast network should stop minimizing the talent portion of the competition. Over the years, the scoring weight for talent has dropped from 40 percent to 30 percent and now to just 20 percent. At the same time, the ABC network has reduced the number of talent performances included in its broadcast. It now shows just two, as opposed to the ten featured in the 1998 broadcast. According to its critics, the Miss America competition is a trivial beauty contest with no redeeming value. Unfortunately, this point of view gains additional support when the talent portion gets minimized. Continuing to underplay the talent portion of the contest will also prevent the pageant from attracting our country's most accomplished candidates in the future. Miss America contestants are definitely much more than beautiful faces. They are strong, intelligent, talented women. They deserve to be rated as highly for these qualities as they are for physical beauty and grace, and the top ten finalists should all perform during the broadcast. A display of talent will prove that there is substance behind the pretty faces as well as entertain America with some exciting live performances. A broadcast consisting of pretty but largely

mute women parading down a runway is an insult to viewers' intelligence

Which of the following statements best expresses the opinion argued in this passage?

- ☐ a. The people responsible for scoring and broadcasting the Miss America pageant should put more emphasis on talent.
- ☐ b. The Miss America pageant is an outdated beauty contest that lacks substance.
- ☐ c. No matter what critics say, people still enjoy the Miss America pageant.
- ☐ d. The talent competition used to be the reason why people watched the Miss America pageant.

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4. Over the last decade, many companies have relaxed their dress codes and allowed their employees to come to work in "business casual" attire rather than suits and ties. Permitting workers to dress more casually was supposed to make them more comfortable and provide them with opportunities for self-expression. However, this trend has proven counterproductive. So much so that stricter dress codes need to be reintroduced to the workplace. One reason for this is that many workers have never figured out what "business casual" means. Their employers have provided detailed descriptions of appropriate types of clothing and even posted "what to wear" photographs as illustrations. Yet, far too many employees continue to show up wearing halter tops, flip-flops, midriff-baring blouses, ragged jeans, sweat suits, and T-shirts with slogans on them. This type of casual, i.e. sloppy, style of dress produces a chain reaction of negative effects. Employees wearing casual clothing encourage the kind of relaxed behavior that can negatively affect the production of goods and services. Customers, in turn, express their dissatisfaction and a company's image suffers.

Which of the following statements best expresses the opinion argued in this passage?

- ☐ a. Companies should relax their dress codes and allow employees to wear "business casual" clothing.
- ☐ b. In the workplace, stricter dress codes are better than those that allow "business casual" attire.
- ☐ c. Many Americans do not care about their personal appearance when they are on the job.
- ☐ d. Many workplace trends of the past ten years have turned out to be counterproductive.

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5. Not so long ago, America's schoolchildren were required to memorize and recite passages from great poems, plays, documents and speeches. Thus, a fifth grader might be able to declaim at will the entire Gettysburg Address, portions of the Declaration of Independence, or passages from Shakespeare's plays. After 1940, though, that tradition began to decline. It disappeared almost completely by the 1970s. Today, even highly-educated people often can't recite a few lines of classic poetry or prose. This inability to recite from memory is unfortunate, for exercises in memorization have value. The ancient Greeks believed that memorizing and reciting the words of great poets, playwrights, and statesmen sharpened the mind and shaped character. Long after the demise of ancient Greece, memorization exercises gave kids as young seven or eight a taste of classic literature. Memorizing sections of literary works also taught children to reproduce the rhythms of language and exposed them to syntax, or word order, more complicated than they otherwise might have encountered. Reciting from memory also enlarged their vocabulary and improved their diction.

Which of the following statements best expresses the opinion argued in this passage?

- ☐ a. America's schools are worse now than they were prior to 1970.
- ☐ b. Memorizing and reciting poetry are more difficult than most people realize.
- ☐ c. Memorizing poetry and prose is good for children, and we should bring back the practice.
- ☐ d. America's schoolchildren should study great literature.