Rhetorical Skills

Strategy

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| **Sentence** | **Question/ Answer Choices** | **Answer/ Explanation** |
| Trevor was an outstanding volunteer. He was highly active, incredibly amicable, and extraordinarily dedicated.  Trevor often received inspiration for his volunteerism. Trevor organized a club for reaching out to the community, His organization received the “Most Impactful Volunteer Group” award from the Chamber of Commerce. | At this point, the writer wants to highlight the influence that Trevor had on his classmates. Given that all of the choices are true, which one would best accomplish that purpose?   1. NO CHANGE 2. Trevor greatly liked volunteering with homeless advocacy groups. 3. Trevor’s passion for service inspired his peers to emulate his actions and join his efforts. 4. Trevor worked heavily in environmental consciousness. | C. This is the only answer choice that indicates Trevor as a source of inspiration. |
| When we were driving down a mountain, our brakes faltered. Then, as I saw a cliff ahead of us, my heart began to beat faster. | 1. NO CHANGE 2. As 3. Then, 4. Then in the times following, as | B. “Then” is redundant in this case, because the following phrase “as I saw...” provides sufficient transition. The best solution would remove this redundant transition and leave “As I saw…” as the beginning of the sentence. To help you understand what redundancy in transitions looks like, take a look at Option D. Option D is a dramatic example of a redundant transition: “then” + “in the times following” + “as” |
| Sensei Zarak works at the local karate dojo. He spends most Friday and Saturday evenings there. He teaches all different levels of karate. Sensei Zarak looks forward to coming into work all week. | If the writer were to delete the last sentence, the essay would primarily lose:   1. An insight into how Sensei Zarak feels about his job. 2. A specific description of what Sensei Zarak does all week. 3. An indication that Sensei Zarak suffers from depression on days he is not at work. 4. Information that reveals why Sensei Zarak likes karate. | 1. The last sentence is the only sentence that contains any emotional. The rest of the sentences in the paragraph are strictly factual. B is not the answer because “looking forward to coming into work all week” is not a specific description. C is not the answer because concluding that “Sensei Zarak suffers from depression” is extreme. D is not the answer because we still do not know why Sensei Zarak likes karate just that he does. |
| [1]Julian smelled something wonderful coming from the kitchen. [2]He remembered his mother said she was baking apple pie today. | Which of the following, if added between Sentence 1 and Sentence 2, would convey Julian’s feelings towards the smell of the apple pie using sensory detail, given that all are true?   1. The smell was familiar, but he could not put his finger on it. 2. Perhaps his little brother was baking something. 3. He inhaled deeply, allowing the aroma to caress his senses; Julian felt an urge to follow the heavenly scent. 4. He started to feel very hungry. | C. Options A, B, and D do not describe perception of the smell. Option C describes how Julian felt about the smell. The sensory detail is present in the words: “caress” and “heavenly.” |
| [1] After a rigorous application process, I was accepted for an audition to attend the Juliard School of Music. [2] My performance started well, but my fingers slipped on the piano keys while completing one of my easiest measures, and an off-tune note was produced. [3] Admission to the esteemed Juliard is highly competitive. [4] I did not want to make any more mistakes, so I allowed myself to feel the music and play freely. [5] I finished the piece perfectly. | Which of the following sentences in this paragraph is LEAST relevant to the purpose off describing the narrator’s actions, and therefore, could be deleted?   1. Sentence 2 2. Sentence 3 3. Sentence 4 4. Sentence 5 | B. The purpose of describing the narrator’s actions is to convey a mistake that was made during an important moment and how it was compensated for. Sentence 3 describes reason for the author to be nervous or motivated, and it specifically describes an objective fact about the school. It does not, however, provide support for why the narrator’s actions were described. |
| The library contains books and digital media on almost every topic imaginable. Every time I need to research anything, whether it be for a school paper or my own curiosity, I always go to the library. | Which of the following best introduces this paragraph?   1. The library is a quiet place. 2. Libraries have been around for centuries. 3. Libraries are found everywhere in the United States. 4. Libraries are extremely resourceful. | D. This is the only option that is supported by the paragraph. The paragraph describes the usefulness of libraries, and stating that “libraries are extremely resourceful” generalizes this idea and provides a good introductory sentence. |
| Milly devoted herself to the cause of animal testing, becoming a leader for administering petitions, spearheading rallies, and disseminating findings to the public. | Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would be LEAST acceptable?   1. threw her considerable energies into 2. portrayed herself as supporting 3. turned her attention to 4. adopted | B. Devotion is characterized by fervor and usually results in some sort of action. Of the options provided, “portraying herself as supporting” changes the meaning of the sentence a little bit, as it fails to accurately express Milly’ relationship with animal testing, which is described as very active. |
| Elsa, who became the Queen of Arendelle after her parents died, had been reclusive much of her life because of a mysterious power that enabled her to freeze anything on demand. She was good-hearted, but she did not know how to control her powers. She became extremely disheartened when she accidently froze her sister Anna’s heart. | Suppose the writer’s goal had been to write a brief essay concerning the importance of sisterly bonds. Would this essay accomplish that goal?   1. Yes, because it describes her positive moments with Anna after hardships. 2. Yes, because it begins by mentioning that she was only reclusive because of her fear of her power. 3. No, because it tells us virtually nothing about the relationship between the two sisters. 4. No, because it explicitly mentions that their bond was not important. | C. This essay primarily focuses on Elsa’s hardships. It does not provide information about the relationship between Elsa and Anna. |
| Growing up, Ed found himself baking all of the time in his grandfather’s bakery. He was very experimental in his approach, and a lot of the times, he produced very unpalatable sweets. Ed is, however, attributed a major breakthrough in baking: the discovery of sugar work. Because of his efforts, sugar work is used by decorators all over the world to embellish baked creations. | The writer would like to end the essay with a sentence that emphasizes Ed’s unique place in baking history. Given that all the choices are true, which one best accomplishes the writer’s goal?   1. Students at one particular culinary school are required to write a research paper on the discovery of sugar work. 2. In the official baker’s dictionary, sugar work is also called “Ed.” 3. Famous bakers like Buddy Valastro attest to the importance of sugar work. 4. Sugar work is not only beautiful but also delicious! | B. Option A is very limited in scope, since students at only one school are required to write about his discovery. Option C does not mention sugar work’s discoverer. Option D does not describe the impact of sugar work or Ed at all. Option B is correct because it indicates official acknowledgment of Ed’s contribution to baking. |
| [1]Cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) has recently proven to be the most effective form of treatment for the majority of psychopathologies. [2]This treatment involves targeting problematic thoughts and addressing the manifestations of those thoughts. [3]Its success is partly attributed to its focus on the individual and his or her uniqueness. [4] Despite its success, CBT is difficult to administer because it can be both time-consuming and expensive | If the writer were to delete Sentence 3, the paragraph would primarily lose information that:   1. Offers and explanation for why CBT may be so effective 2. Explains how CBT’s benefits outweigh the drawbacks. 3. Reveals why psychologists are protesting all other forms of treatment for psychopathologies. 4. Describes what goes on in a CBT session. | A. Sentence 3 offers an explanation for why CBT seems to be the most effective form of treatment for the majority of psychopathologies. None of the other options reveal *why* CBT is effective. |
| [1] At the festival, there were all kinds of art-making. [2] On the left were sculptors who enchanted the crowd with their immaculate workmanship. [3] To our right were painters of all styles who had an entire audience mesmerized. [4] Among all the paintings, my favorite was a really colorful one that depicted an old home in a natural landscape. | At this point, the writer is considering adding the following sentence:  “I think I noticed this painting in the first place because it stood out from the others – after all, it was on a six-foot pedestal!”  Would this be a relevant addition to make here?   1. Yes, because it gives further details of the idea expressed in Sentence 4. 2. Yes, because it shows why the author preferred paintings to the other art forms he saw at the festival. 3. No, because it contradicts some of the information given in Sentence 4. 4. No, because it makes a digression leading away from the main focus of this essay. | A. This sentence helps the readers know why the author’s favorite was the colorful painting that depicted an old house. There is not enough evidence for Option B. Option C states there is a contradiction between this sentence and Sentence 4, but this sentence helps to explain Sentence 4, so there is no contradiction. This sentence does not digress from the main idea, so Option D is ruled out. |

Style

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| **Sentence** | **Question/ Answer Choice** | **Answer/ Explanation** |
| We arrived at Walt Disney world at 9:00 a.m. in the morning. | 1. NO CHANGE 2. 9:00 a.m. 3. 9:00 a.m. during the morning. 4. 9:00 a.m., which was morning. | B. The information provided by “a.m.” indicates morning. Therefore, stating “in the morning” is redundant. Another acceptable answer is “9:00 in the morning.” |
| According to the meteorologist, the likelihood of rain has more than tripled for some of them between Pasco and Hernando counties and more than doubled for southern coastal regions. | 1. NO CHANGE 2. them 3. regions 4. DELETE underlined portion of the sentence | C. The word “regions” adds clarity to this sentence. A and B include an ambiguous pronoun. D makes the sentence incoherent. |
| The kids learned very important life lessons from their volunteering experiencing. They learned about commitment, efficiency, and teamwork. They previously learned about using time wisely and giving back to the community. | 1. NO CHANGE 2. also 3. instead 4. conversely | B. The word “also” correctly suggests the combination of things the kids learned through volunteering. Options C and D are used to describe contrasting thoughts or events. Option A is used to delineate transitions in time. |
| Health care professionals have been emphasizing the importance of vaccinating and refuting claims that vaccines are dangerous or cause autism. Despite this, many people choose believe that vaccines are harmful, and they refuse to vaccinate themselves or their children, posing a health risk to the community at large. | 1. NO CHANGE 2. Similarly, 3. For example, 4. Furthermore, | A. “Despite this” is used to transition between contrasting pieces of information. The first sentence describes how medical professional believe vaccines are useful and safe while the second sentence describes how people who know this information still decide to believe vaccines are harmful. |
| [1]There was a blizzard going on in New York City. [2]It was swelteringly hot in Miami. | Which word would BEST transition from Sentence 1 to Sentence 2?   1. Finally, 2. Similarly, 3. Meanwhile, 4. Next, | C. The two sentences are contrasting. The best transition word of these options to connect these contrasting sentences is “meanwhile.” “Finally,” “similarly,” and “next” are used to connect similar or sequential statements. |
| Lately, I have been experiencing random and hysterical events. The day before yesterday, a squirrel stole my lunch box at school. Yesterday, a clown jumped out of a trash can I was passing.  However, I decided to write a book enumerating all of these encounters. | Given that all choices are true, which one provides the best transition between paragraphs?  A. NO CHANGE   1. At that point, 2. Nevertheless, 3. Similarly, | B. The first paragraph describes a series of events that led the narrator to an action in the second paragraph. To convey this cause-and-effect, the best transition word is Option B. Options A and C are used to describe contrasting thoughts or events. Option D is used to describe thoughts and ideas that are alike. |
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Organization:

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| **Sentence** | **Question/ Answer Choices** | **Answer/ Explanation** |
| Born into the family of a professional ballet dancer and pianist, the young Jinua was drawn towards the artistic community and pursued theater. | 1. NO CHANGE 2. Jinua was drawn to the arts community, born into the family of a professional ballet dancer and pianist 3. The arts community, born into the family of a professional ballet dancer and pianist, the young Jinua was drawn to 4. The young Jinua was drawn to the family of a professional ballet dancer and pianist, born to the arts community | A. The dependent clause at the beginning of the sentence (the first phrase up to the comma that could not form a complete sentence on its own) describes Jinua. Thus, “Jinua” should immediately follow this phrase. The rest of the options change the meaning of the sentence. |
| [1] Upon learning that it was beneficial, Kelsey started clenching her left fist every time she saw an opportunity for spiking the volleyball onto the opponent’s court. Much to her chagrin, it actually seemed to be working. Though her spikes were not perfect every time, her performance significantly increased overall.  [2] A recent study revealed that right-handed athletes who make a fist with their left hand before shooting a basket, kicking towards the goal, or performing any athletic feat are likely to do better than those who do not make the fist. The proposed explanation is clenching the left fist activates the left part of the brain, which is involved in motor control, coordination, and reflexes.  [3] Kelsey shared this information with her teammates, all of whom started clenching the fists of their non-dominant hand before making an important move. Her team won the state and regional championship. | For the sake of coherence in the passage, Paragraph 1 should be placed   1. Where it is now 2. After Paragraph 2 3. After Paragraph 3 4. Paragraph 1 should be DELETED. | B. Paragraph 1 discusses what Kelsey did *after* she learned about the study of clenching your non-dominant fist. Paragraph 2 discusses the study. Paragraph 3 discusses what Kelsey did after she tried applying the newly obtained information. The most coherent sequence for these paragraphs is 2,1,3. |
| [1] After all of the ingredients have been added and mixed well, the cake batter is poured into a pan. [2] The baker places it into the oven and watches for it to turn a golden-brown color. [3] At this point, the cake is ready for baking. [4] To make sure the cake is fully cooked, the baker uses a toothpick to check for any remaining cake batter. [5] Once there is no cake batter on the toothpick, the baker removes the cake from the oven and allows it to cool before icing it. | For the sake of the logic and coherence of this paragraph, Sentence 3 should be placed:   1. Where it is now 2. Before Sentence 1 3. Before Sentence 2 4. Before Sentence 5 | C. The cake is ready for baking *after* the batter is poured into a pan. Thus, Sentence 3 should be placed before Sentence 2. |
| [1] Janet started her vacation in Vienna, Austria, where she watched an opera and visited Mozart’s house. [2] She continued through Austria and into Berchtesgaden, Germany, where she toured the Neuschwentstein Castle: the castle that inspired Disney’s Sleeping Beauty Castle! [3] Janet was extremely ecstatic for her upcoming backpacking vacation in Europe. [4] Janet finished her vacation in Keukenhof, a small town in the Netherlands that is famous for its expansive and beautiful tulip gardens. | Which order of sentences would be the most logical and coherent?   1. 2, 1, 3, 4 2. 2, 4, 1, 3 3. 3, 4, 1, 2 4. 3, 1, 2, 4 | D. The first sentence should be the one that describes Janet before the vacation started, which is Sentence 3. The following sentences have indication that convey in what order Janet visited which destination. Sentence 1 says “Janet started”, Sentence 2 says “she continued through Austria” (and we know her first destination was Austria), and Sentence 4 says “Janet finished”. |
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