

DAY 1 - Types of Nonfiction Text

Some works of nonfiction, such as **biographies**, **autobiographies**, **memoirs**, and true-life adventures, read like gripping novels. There's a key difference, though. In **narrative nonfiction**, the events actually happened, and the characters are real people. **Informational nonfiction**, however, is nothing like fiction. It includes texts such as news articles, manuals, and directions to a friend's house—sources you consult for information. Since you read all kinds of nonfiction texts daily, you should know what to expect from them.

TYPE OF NONFICTION	CHARACTERISTICS	
AUTOBIOGRAPHY/ BIOGRAPHY The true story of a person's life, told by that person (autobiography) or by another person (biography)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides details about a person's life Written from the first-person point of view (autobiography) or from the third-person point of view (biography) Presents the writer's own version of his or her life (autobiography) or an outside writer's research (biography) 	
ESSAY A short work of nonfiction that focuses on a single subject. Common types include reflective, persuasive, and descriptive essays.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is intended to share a personal experience, to express feelings, to inform, to entertain, or to persuade May be written in a formal style, with an academic tone May be written in an informal style, with a conversational tone 	 <small>In recent years, zoos have become the target of intense public scrutiny and criticism. In response, many have tried to repackage their history as institutions devoted to wildlife conservation, public education, and animal welfare. But most soon had to live up to their own propaganda and to a handful of zoo animals continue to endure lives of misery and deprivation.</small>
SPEECH An oral presentation of the ideas, beliefs, or proposals of a speaker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May be intended to share a personal experience, to express feelings, to inform, to entertain, or to persuade Relies on powerful language, as well as the speaker's voice and gestures 	
NEWS/FEATURE ARTICLES Informative writing in newspapers and magazines. News articles report on recent events. Feature articles offer in-depth coverage of human-interest topics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are primarily intended to inform or entertain Use headlines, subheadings, photographs, and graphic aids to present information Strive to be objective and fair 	 
FUNCTIONAL DOCUMENTS Writing that serves a practical purpose. Types include consumer documents, such as user manuals, and workplace documents, such as résumés.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are written to inform a specific audience (for example, employees or consumers) Often include charts, diagrams, or other helpful graphic aids 	

Directions: In the Chart below, compare the characteristics of the different types of nonfiction using a checkmark.

	Auto/Biography	Essay	Speech	Articles	Functional
Includes Facts					
Expresses Opinions					
Follows Chronological Text Structure					
Formal Tone					
Informal Tone					

DAY 2 - Biography vs. Nonfiction Article

As the cofounder and CEO of a major technology corporation, Steve Jobs helped develop some of the first user-friendly personal computers. As you read this excerpt from a **biography** of Jobs, keep in mind the key idea of initiative—the ability to take action.

from
Steve Jobs: [Thinks Different]

Biography by **Ann Brashares**

At thirteen, Jobs's interest in electronics was blossoming. One day he was building an electronic counting machine, and he needed some parts. He knew he could get them from Hewlett-Packard, a giant electronics company not far from his house. Jobs looked up the phone number of Bill Hewlett, the cofounder of Hewlett-Packard. Some kids would have been afraid to dial up one of the richest and most important men in California. Not Steve Jobs.

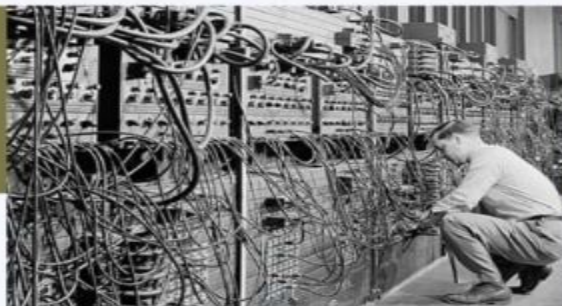
He boldly chatted with Bill Hewlett for twenty minutes, and Hewlett was so impressed and surprised by the young man that he not only gave him the parts he needed but offered him a summer job, too. That phone call taught an early lesson: If you ask for what you want, you often get it.

Did you know that the first computer weighed 30 tons? As you read this excerpt from a feature **article** on computer history, look for other mind-boggling facts. Also, consider the key idea of progress.

WIRELESS EVOLUTION: THANK YOU ENIAC

WAY BACK WHEN, ONE COMPUTER COULD FILL AN ENTIRE MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA. TODAY, YOU CAN WEAR ONE ON YOUR BELT LOOP.

by **David Santos**



Far from a Handheld The first computerized “counting machine” was called ENIAC—Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer. Completed in 1946, covering three walls, standing eight feet high, and weighing 30 tons, ENIAC required 7,468 vacuum tubes and 6,000 manual switches just to get warmed up!

ENIAC could execute thousands of calculations in seconds. However, reprogramming it took a team of people, three days, and lots of patience.

ENIAC's advanced technology, even with its massive shortcomings, was critical in spurring on the decades of computer evolution that followed.

- How can you tell that the first excerpt is from a biography rather than an autobiography?
 - It is written in third person point of view
 - It is written in first person point of view
 - The author is not Steve Jobs himself.
 - Steve Jobs is telling the story.
- What characteristics make the article different from the biography you just read? List them.

DAY 3 - Elements of an Argument

The author of this essay makes a case against junk food by focusing on one example. As you read this excerpt, try to

identify the author's claim. What reasons and evidence does he provide as support for his position?

from **Why Can't I Live on**
French Fries?



Essay by **Richard J. Roberts**

So what's so bad about stuffing yourself with nothing but French fries all the time, anyway? Simple: Pretty soon you'll be missing important nutrients.

Let's start with vitamins. The body does not need much of them, but in most cases, it cannot produce them. Potatoes contain mostly vitamin C and hardly any other vitamin. No vitamin K, for example, which is needed to form a scab when you're bleeding so that the bleeding stops. And no vitamin A, needed for the eyes to function properly. Not enough vitamin A, and you'll see even less well at night than everyone else. Over the long run, a lack of vitamin A can even cause blindness. Many children in Africa suffer from it.

If you were to eat only French fries, your teeth would also slowly go bad and your bones would become brittle. That's because potatoes do not contain enough calcium, and your bones need calcium throughout your life, not just while you're growing. Besides, all those mountains of fries would overload you with sodium, because they're often too salty, and salt contains sodium.

It's important that your body maintain a good sodium balance, because otherwise, it can't regulate its body temperature very well, but too much sodium causes high blood pressure in some people.

French fries also contain little protein. Proteins are critical. They are the true bearers of life. The cells from which most living creatures are built consist mostly of proteins. Without proteins, for example, you would not have any muscles. . . .

We chemists and doctors still know far too little about nutrition and its effects on health. This is why every person has to find out for him- or herself what's good for each. But one thing I can guarantee: You'll get into trouble if you always eat nothing but French fries. By the way, I myself would love to wolf down French fries every day. But I, too, have to restrain myself and should stick to the advice that I've given you here.

1. Reread the title and lines 1-2. What is the author's claim?

- So what's so bad about stuffing yourself with nothing but French fries?
- Pretty soon you'll be missing important nutrients.
- French fries alone do not provide the body with essential nutrients.
- French fries are bad for you.

2. In the boxed lines, the author explains that a person needs vitamins that are not found in French fries. What examples does he use to support this reason? Choose all correct answers.

- ☐ Potatoes contain mostly vitamin C.
- ☐ Vitamin K is needed for the body to form scabs.
- ☐ Vitamin A can cause blindness.
- ☐ Many children in Africa suffer from a lack of Vitamin A.

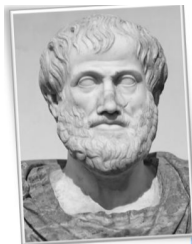
3. In lines 10-21, the author offers three other reasons to support his claim. Restate these reasons in your own words.

4. What does the author do in the last paragraph to strengthen his argument?

- He makes a guarantee.
- He uses a personal example.

- c. He mentions chemists and doctors.
- d. He gives the reader something to do or think about.

DAY 4 - Persuasive Techniques & Appeals



ARISTOTLE was a Greek philosopher who lived in the 4th century BCE. He was an influential thinker and wrote on many subjects –from logic and ethics, to biology and metaphysics. One area, in which Aristotle was particularly interested, was rhetoric. That is, the art of persuasive speaking or writing. He even wrote a whole book entitled ‘On Rhetoric’ in which he explains his theories of persuasive language and speech. Most significantly, in this work he expounds on the concepts of **ethos**, **logos** and **pathos**, as tools for persuasive language. A lot can be learned about the art of persuasion from these three concepts, and once understood, they can be easily applied to our own persuasive speaking and writing.

ETHOS

Ethos is a Greek word meaning ‘character’. In terms of persuasive language, it is **an appeal to authority and credibility**. *Ethos* is a means of convincing an audience of the reliable character or credibility of the speaker/writer, or the credibility of the argument.

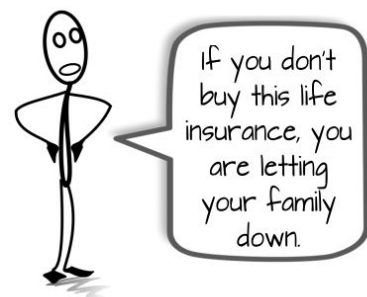
It is an important tool of persuasion because if you can get your audience to see you (or your argument) as credible and trustworthy, it will be much easier to persuade them.



PATHOS

Pathos is a Greek word meaning ‘suffering’ or ‘experience’, and it is used in persuasive speech as **an appeal to the emotions** of the audience. *Pathos* is the way of creating a persuasive argument by evoking an emotional response in the audience/reader.

You can use *pathos* when trying to persuade, by appealing to an audience’s hopes and dreams, playing on their fears or worries, or appealing to their particular beliefs or ideals.



LOGOS

Logos is a Greek word meaning ‘a word’ or ‘reason’. In rhetoric, it is **an appeal to logic and reason**. It is used to persuade an audience by logical thought, fact and rationality.

Logos can be a useful tool of persuasion because if you can ‘prove’ an argument through logical and sound reasoning, your audience is more likely to be persuaded.



DIRECTIONS: Practice labeling pathos, logos, and ethos by placing a P, L, or E in the blank :

1. ____ A child is shown covered in bug bites after using an inferior bug spray.
2. ____ Tiger Woods endorses Nike.
3. ____ Sprite Zero is 100% sugar-free.
4. ____ A 32-oz. bottle of Tide holds enough to wash 32 loads.
5. ____ A commercial shows an image of a happy couple riding in a Corvette.
6. ____ Cardiologists recommend Ecotrin more than any other brand of aspirin.
7. ____ Advil Liqui-Gels provide up to 8 hours of continuous pain relief.
8. ____ Miley Cyrus appears in Oreo advertisements.
9. ____ People who need more energy drink Red Bull Energy Drink.
10. ____ A magazine ad shows people smiling while smoking cigarettes.

DAY 5 - Persuasive Techniques & Appeals Cont.

Directions: Write E, L, or P on the line if that persuasive technique is used in the selection.

1. _____ "This is definitely the hottest watch I've ever owned and I've owned many as I used to collect Men's watches. I just received it today and I have to say it had the biggest WOW factor straight out of the box. If you're a big man like I am you need a nice, classy, masculine watch like this. For the price I paid I feel like I stole it."

2. _____ "I've seen things you people wouldn't believe. Attack ships on fire off the shoulder of Orion. I watched c-beams glitter in the dark near the Tannhauser Gate. All those moments will be lost in time, like tears in rain. But the creamy yumminess of Tuscan Whole Milk, 1 Gallon, 128 fl oz will be praised across the galaxy forever more. Time to die."
Product Review Tuscan Whole Milk Replicant Heaven May 23, 2011 by Roy Batty

3. _____ Cary W tweeted, "Drive is such an amazing film, went in with a crush on Carey Mulligan. Left with a crush on Ryan Gosling." [Twitter post discovered by eonline.com]

4. _____ "I will end this war in Iraq responsibly, and finish the fight against al Qaeda and the Taliban in Afghanistan. I will rebuild our military to meet future conflicts. But I will also renew the tough, direct diplomacy that can prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons and curb Russian aggression. I will build new partnerships to defeat the threats of the 21st century: terrorism and nuclear proliferation; poverty and genocide; climate change and disease. And I will restore our moral standing, so that America is once again that last, best hope for all who are called to the cause of freedom, who long for lives of peace, and who yearn for a better future."
Democratic Presidential Candidate Acceptance Speech by Barack Obama. August 28th, 2008.

5. _____ "I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of great trials and tribulations. Some of you have come fresh from narrow jail cells. And some of you have come from areas where your quest -- quest for freedom left you battered by the storms of persecution and staggered by the winds of police brutality. You have been the veterans of creative suffering. Continue to work with the faith that unearned suffering is redemptive. Go back to Mississippi, go back to Alabama, go back to South Carolina, go back to Georgia, go back to Louisiana, go back to the slums and ghettos of our northern cities, knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed."
"I Have a Dream" by Martin Luther King Jr. August 28th, 1963.

6. _____ "However, although private final demand, output, and employment have indeed been growing for more than a year, the pace of that growth recently appears somewhat less vigorous than we expected. Notably, since stabilizing in mid-2009, real household spending in the United States has grown in the range of 1 to 2 percent at annual rates, a relatively modest pace. Households' caution is understandable. Importantly, the painfully slow recovery in the labor market has restrained growth in labor income, raised uncertainty about job security and prospects, and damped confidence. Also, although consumer credit shows some signs of thawing, responses to our Senior Loan Officer Opinion Survey on Bank Lending Practices suggest that lending standards to households generally remain tight."
"The Economic Outlook and Monetary Policy" by Ben Bernanke. August 27th, 2010.

DAY 6 - Persuasive Techniques & Appeals Cont.

Now you'll apply what you've learned as you analyze two texts—an editorial and a poster. Both texts are about the legal driving age. As you read each text, try to identify the claim, support, and persuasive techniques that are used.

Should the Driving Age Be Raised to 18?



Editorial by **Alex Koroknay-Palicz**
National Youth Rights Association

If your neighbor robs a bank, should you go to jail? No. If your classmate gets in an accident, should your driver's license be taken away? Of course not. Neither situation is fair. Raising the driving age will punish all young drivers for the mistakes of a few of their peers.

- 5 In this country we live by the principle of innocent until proven guilty. Those who want to raise the driving age have labeled teens guilty before they've gotten in an accident or before they've even stepped into a car. They believe that just because of your birth date, you are dangerous and must be punished by having your ability to drive taken from you.
- 10 Those who favor raising the driving age say that statistics show teenagers are more likely to get into accidents than adults. What they don't say is that statistics also show that men of all ages are 77 percent more likely to kill someone while driving than women. If people want to save lives by raising the driving age, then how about saving lives by allowing only women to drive?

- 15 Except raising the driving age won't save lives. Studies show that it is inexperience, not age, that causes accidents. Raising the driving age will just create inexperienced, accident-prone drivers at 18 instead of 16.

- 20 Teens need the ability to drive just as much as anyone else—to get to school, to get to work, to get to sports or band practice, or just to go out with their friends. Cars are necessary for mobility in this country. Taking that away is a large disruption to the lives of teenagers—for no good reason.

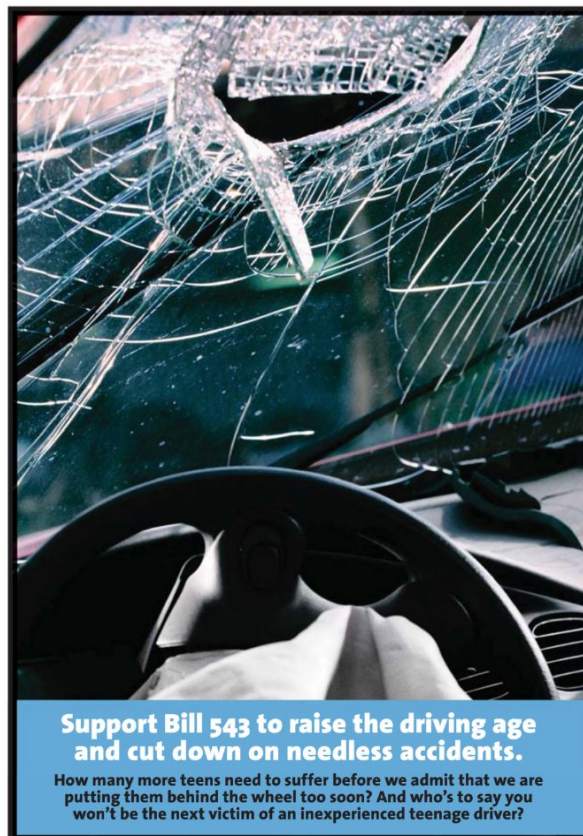
3. Identify the type of appeal used in this editorial.

- Ethos
- Pathos
- Logos

4. Identify the type of appeal used in the public service poster.

- Ethos
- Pathos
- Logos

5. Based on the content of the poster, does the author have a positive or negative view of raising the driving age?



1. Which of the following represents the author's claim in the editorial?

- All teens should not be punished because of the mistakes of some.
- The legal age for driving should not be increased because of the mistakes of others.
- Teens might be unsafe drivers, but men of all ages are even more dangerous.

2. Based on the title of the editorial, does the author have a positive or negative view of raising the driving age?

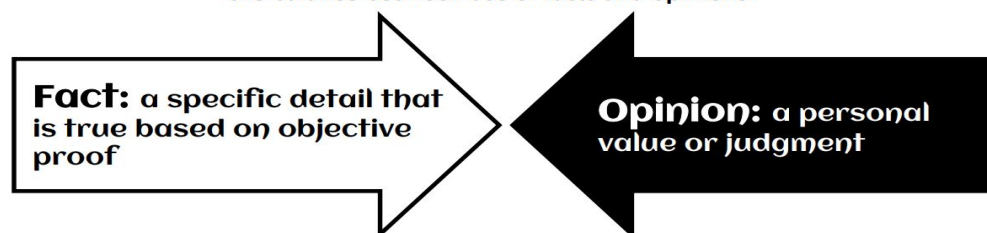
- Positive
- Negative

- a. Positive
- b. Negative

DAY 7 - Author's Viewpoint: Fact/Opinion

Unlike the topic of Point of View, **Author's Viewpoint** is the way an author looks at a topic or the ideas being described. Thoughtful readers are able to discern an author's perspective, opinions, hypotheses, assumptions, and possible bias based on the types of facts and opinions used in the text.

The author's viewpoint is often revealed through their use or omission of certain facts, and how the balance between use of facts and opinions.



WORDS THAT INDICATE BIAS/OPINION (Adj./Adv. That express value/judgment/interpretation)

Awful	Best	Favorite	Great	More	Terrible
Amazing	Better	Frightful	Handsome	Most	Unbelievable
Bad	Disgusting	Fun	Horrible	Smart	Ugly
Beautiful	Exciting	Good	Miserable	Stupid	very

WORDS THAT QUALIFY POSITIONS OR BELIEFS

All	Could	Likely	Never	Possibly	Should
Always	Every	May	Often	Possible	Sometimes
Appear	Has/have to	Might	Only	Probably	Think
Believe	It is believed	Must	Ought to	Seem	usually

Directions: Underline the facts in the text, and circle words that indicate opinions. Then box the author's opinions. Finally, circle whether the author's opinion is positive or negative about the topic.

Twilight is a series of four vampire-themed fantasy romance novels by American author Stephenie Meyer. It charts a period in the life of Isabella "Bella" Swan, a teenage girl who moves to Forks, Washington, and falls in love with a 104-year-old vampire named Edward Cullen. Although it has been wildly popular, it could be one of the most poorly written examples of young adult literature. The series has sold millions of copies and grossed incredible returns in the box office as a movie adaptation, despite it's shallow character development and scattered plot-line.

Positive

Negative

NFL Football is wildly entertaining and quite possibly the best way to spend a quiet Sunday afternoon. Up until the 1960s, the NFL was the dominant professional football league and faced little competition. Recently the sport has come under attack because of concerns over violence and long-term injury. Injuries can happen in any sport, and those who desire to limit the contact in the sport are ridiculous to even suggest changing America's greatest sporting competition. The NFL is and always will be an amazing spectacle of athleticism and intense competition.

Positive

Negative

Lotteries and gambling are horrible ways to generate revenue for government funds or for even a local fundraiser. All state lotteries and gambling institutions should reconsider their practices and possibly be made illegal as forms of revenue. Lotteries, like any form of gambling, are susceptible to fraud, despite the high degree of scrutiny claimed by the organizers. Numerous lottery scams exist, and are used to generate funds for corrupt or even illegal activities. Some advance fee fraud scams on the Internet are based on lotteries. The fraud starts with spam

congratulating the recipient on their recent lottery win. The email explains that in order to release funds the email recipient must part with a certain amount (as tax/fees) as per the rules or risk forfeiture.

Positive

Negative

DAY 8 - Author's Viewpoint cont.

"If books show us the world, teen fiction can be like a hall of fun-house mirrors, constantly reflecting back hideously distorted portrayals of what life is. There are of course exceptions, but a careless young reader—or one who seeks out depravity—will find himself surrounded by images not of joy or beauty but of damage, brutality and losses of the most horrendous kinds." -Meghan Cox Gurdon (Wall Street Journal, June 2011)-

1. What is the topic of the text?
 - a. Careless young readers
 - b. The effects of teen fiction
2. What is the author's viewpoint about the topic?
 - a. Positive
 - b. Negative

And I find it amusing (and somewhat disconcerting) that people make excuses to escape whoever they are supposed to be spending time with so that they can check in with other people who may not even be real-life friends. I like going out to dinner with friends and am bewildered at how many people put their phone on the table and if it vibrates they interrupt whatever is going on to tap a few keys and return to the conversation -Dr. Larry Rosen (Huffington Post, October 2014)-

3. What is the topic of the text?
 - a. Cell Phones and restaurants
 - b. Social Interactions and cell phones
4. What is the author's viewpoint about the topic?
 - a. Positive
 - b. Negative

Coyotes Invade Downtown

The discovery of a wild coyote in late 1997 in the Henry M. Jackson Federal Building in downtown Seattle should come as a wake-up call. The United States has a serious coyote problem! From their traditional enclaves in the western desert, these opportunistic canines have now invaded the entire continental United States. They have taken over parks, farms, vacant lots, and now perhaps the downtown areas of major cities. Homeowners report losing cats and dogs to the beasts and young children are under attack. Enough is enough. Since humans are the only natural enemy of coyotes, we demand that state and federal agencies institute coyote trapping programs. That is the only way to decrease the number of coyotes to a manageable level.

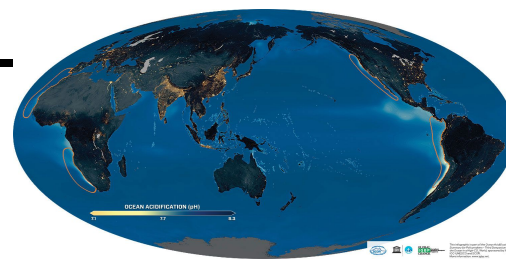
1. What statement BEST expresses the author's viewpoint?
 - a. Everything should be done to stop the coyote problem.
 - b. Downtown Seattle should come as a wake-up call.
 - c. Coyotes have invaded parks, farms, and some cities.
 - d. Humans are the only enemy to coyotes.
2. How does the author predominantly support his position?
 - a. The author predominantly uses facts to support his position.
 - b. The author predominantly uses opinions to support his position.
3. With which one of these statements would the author most likely agree?
 - a. Federal agencies have coyote trapping programs.
 - b. The coyote population needs to be reduced to a manageable level.
 - c. Coyotes are opportunistic animals that help the United States.

DAY 9 - Author's Viewpoint cont.**NASA Science | EARTH | OCEANOGRAPHY****Ocean & Earth System**

Just by looking at images of Earth from space, it's clear that the ocean is a significant piece of the Earth's story. In fact, the ocean represents over 70% of the Earth's surface and contains 97% of all water on Earth. The ocean stores heat like a "fly wheel" for climate. Its huge capacity as a heat and water reservoir moderates the climate of Earth.

Within this Earth system, both the physical and biological processes of the ocean play a key role in the water cycle, the carbon cycle, and climate variability.

Even if you live nowhere near the ocean, you will still experience the ocean's influence in our Earth system. Most of the rain that falls on land comes from the tropical ocean. The ocean is the primary driver of weather and climate and can give us clues to global phenomenon such as El Nino. The phytoplankton (microscopic plants) that live in the ocean are responsible for almost half the oxygen you inhale and play a vital role in the carbon cycle. Far inland from the ocean, fields of crops enjoy rainwater that traveled through the water cycle and spent a few days or perhaps thousands of years cycling through the ocean.



1. **What statement BEST expresses the author's viewpoint?**
 - a. The ocean plays a vital role in life on earth.
 - b. The ocean is only a minor part of the life cycle on earth.
 - c. The ocean only influences the lives of people living near it.
 - d. The ocean plays no part in the earth's climate.
2. **How does the inclusion of statistics in the first paragraph affect the reader?**
 - a. They add unnecessary details and get in the way of the main story.
 - b. These are not statistics in the first paragraph.
 - c. They help make the author's point about the ocean's vast size and role.
 - d. They show that the author did research on the subject before writing the article.
3. **With which of these statements would the author most likely to agree?**
 - a. There is no value in studying the ocean.
 - b. Nothing humans do has an effect on the ocean.
 - c. The condition of the ocean is irrelevant.
 - d. The ocean is worth preserving.

"Cost of Crime Adds Up"

By Richard Burnett, Sentinel Staff Writer

Florida businesses will lose more money from crime this year than they'll spend on water, gas and electricity. This is according to a study released Tuesday. From shoplifting to employee theft, crime is expected to cost Florida businesses \$27.4 billion. The cost is twice that of residential crime, according to the report issued by Attorney General Charlie Crist and a law enforcement/industry coalition.

The biggest perpetrators, surprisingly, are not robbers and burglars. Rather, they are rogue employees, pilfering everything from stock inventory and office supplies to company accounts and confidential data. More than \$13 billion in losses -- almost half of Florida's annual total -- are attributed to those inside jobs, the study said. State officials said they are launching a campaign to inform the public and business community about the problem.

Burnett, Richard. From "Cost of Crime Adds Up." *Orlando Sentinel*. 24 Nov. 2004. 24 Nov. 2004.
<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/business/orl-bizbizcrime24112404nov24,1,5574133.story?coll=orl-home-headlines>.

1. What is the author's purpose in writing the article?

- a. To persuade the reader to buy a security system.
- b. To entertain the reader with stories.
- c. To inform the reader about how to steal from businesses.
- d. To inform the reader about the effects of stealing.

2. What is the author's viewpoint on —rogue employees? ||

- a. They are good for Florida businesses, according to the reports issued.
- b. They should be fired immediately and prosecuted for their crimes.

c. They are worse than burglars and robbers when stealing from businesses.

d. They should lose income from their employers since they are thieves.

DAY 10 - Summarizing Nonfiction

In the morning rush, too many people skip breakfast. This is a bad choice for many reasons. People benefit from eating a healthy breakfast. If they eat a healthy breakfast, people are likely to be more alert. In addition, they are likely to be more creative than when they skip the meal. They also tend to be more active and have better hand-eye control. In short, eating a healthy breakfast can have both mental and physical benefits.

1. Which is the best summary of the passage?
 - a. Too many people skip breakfast because they are busy and rushing around. People need to slow down.
 - b. Eating breakfast has both mental and physical benefits. It can help people be more alert, creative, and active.
 - c. It is important to eat breakfast in order to do better at school. However, the food that people eat should be healthy.

The following excerpt titled "The Liberty Bell" is compiled from the National Park Service website.

No one knows how or why the Liberty Bell first cracked. It is most likely that the crack developed in the early 1840's after nearly ninety years of hard use. The decision to repair the bell was made in 1846. The work began prior to George Washington's birthday holiday. Metal workers widened the thick crack to prevent its further spread and to restore the tone of the bell using a technique called stop drilling. The crack in the Liberty Bell is actually the repair job.

2. Which sentence best summarizes this passage?
 - a. In the 1840's, after nearly a century of hard use, the crack in the Liberty Bell became noticeable. Workers widened the original crack instead of sealing it.
 - b. The crack in the Liberty Bell came from a repair job where workers used stop drilling to restore the tone of the bell. This prevented further damage.
 - c. The work to repair the Liberty Bell started on George Washington's Birthday in 1846. Ninety years of hard use created a crack that changed the tone of the bell.

Schools should exchange the high school and elementary schedules so high school starts later. It's more difficult for students to learn without enough sleep. But high school students have good reasons for staying up late! Scientific studies show that teenagers are more alert at night than in the morning. Plus, teens often balance homework with volunteering, part-time jobs, and sports. Young children usually fall asleep earlier, so they can wake up early more easily.

3. Which summary below best captures the essentials of the passage?
 - a. The passage explains why high school students learn best later in the day, using teens' sleep cycles as evidence and contrasting with younger students.
 - b. The passage argues for later start times for high school students, giving reasons why their schedules should be exchanged with elementary school students.
 - c. The passage informs readers that teenagers would do better in school and other activities if they could sleep later in the morning and start school later.

The American alligator lives in an estuarine habitat, a place in which rivers meet the ocean, and thrives on a broad and varied diet. Ecologists and wildlife biologists across the US Southeast are studying just how varied this diet is. Eyewitness accounts dating back to the late 1990's report sightings of the usually freshwater reptile dining on shark. Further studies have discovered that the gators regularly venture into saltwater to eat rays, crabs, and sea turtles, as well as nurse sharks, bonnethead sharks, and lemon sharks. The American alligator does not have salt glands, so each time it risks satisfying its appetite in a mangrove swamp or salt marsh, it is increasing the salt in its blood and losing water. Alligators deal with the salt by going back and forth between saltwater and freshwater, and in addition, use a cartilage-based shield to close off their throat. The gators tip their heads and drain the saltwater before swallowing their prey and can catch rainwater if they need a drink. The discovery that they regularly travel between the two environments is important when planning conservation programs. The estuarine alligators are moving nutrients from rich salt waters into poorer freshwater and affecting food webs in habitats across the Southeast.

1. Which is the best summary of the passage?
 - a. Recent scientific studies show the American alligator has the ability to leave its freshwater habitat and feed on sharks and other saltwater prey.
 - b. Current information gathered by biologists shows that American alligators have the ability to balance the salt in their blood in order to feed on saltwater prey.

- c. The shocking discovery that the American alligator regularly travels between freshwater and saltwater is important when planning conservation programs.