

Chapter 5

Writing Thesis Statements and Topic Sentences

Necessary Skills

- Stating your opinion or thesis clearly
- Stating clear and strong topic sentences that support the thesis

Strategies

- Make your thesis statement clear and concise.
- For your thesis, do not write, "I agree with this opinion." Restate the question when giving your opinion, such as "I agree that when people reach a certain age, they should no longer be able to drive."
- Make your topic sentence a summary of all the points you will cover in the paragraph.
- Write clear topic sentences that will naturally lead into the rest of the information in the paragraph.

Example:

Weak topic sentence → I think cows are more useful than horses.

Strong topic sentence → Cows are more useful than horses for two main reasons.

Thesis Statements

► Step 1

Read the following prompts and sample thesis statements. Underline words in the thesis statements that are also used in the prompts.

Prompt 1:

Some people feel that celebrities are overpaid. Other people think they deserve the money they earn. Which is your opinion? Give specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Thesis Statement 1:

Despite the popularity of certain celebrities, I feel that celebrities earn much more money than they deserve for several reasons.

Prompt 2:

If some tourists wanted to travel to one city in your nation, which city would you recommend for them to visit? Give specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Thesis Statement 2:

If tourists were to ask my opinion on which city in my nation to visit, I would suggest that they visit Los Angeles because of three major attractions that can be found there.

Prompt 3:

What are some qualities that you think a good role model should have? Give specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Thesis Statement 3:

In my opinion, good role models are people who are caring, likable, and above all, ethical.

Prompt 4:

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Employees should always try to seek advancement at their jobs. Why do you feel this way? Give specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Thesis Statement 4:

I agree that employees should always try to seek advancement at their jobs because of all the benefits that job advancement can offer.

▶ Step 2

Read the following prompts. Decide if each prompt asks you for your experience or your opinion. Then write a thesis statement in response to each prompt.

Prompt 1:

How have your parents formed you into the person you are today? Give specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Does this question ask you to explain your opinion or your experience? Select one.

opinion experience

Thesis statement: _____

Prompt 2:

Do you feel that students should be required to participate in physical education in schools? Give specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Does this question ask you to explain your opinion or your experience? Select one.

opinion experience

Thesis statement: _____

Prompt 3:

Some people prefer to take notes using a computer. Others prefer to write out notes by hand. Which do you think is better? Give specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Does this question ask you to explain your opinion or your experience? Select one.

opinion experience

Thesis statement: _____

Prompt 4:

What was the most memorable place you have ever visited? Based on your experiences, would you recommend this place to others? Give specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Does this question ask you to explain your opinion or your experience? Select one.

opinion experience

Thesis statement: _____

02

Topic Sentences

READING

LISTENING

SPEAKING

WRITING

PRACTICE TEST

▶ Step 1

Read the prompts and three sentences that could be used in a response to each prompt. One sentence is a thesis statement. Another is the topic sentence of a body paragraph. The last sentence is a reason, example, or detail used in a body paragraph. Number the sentences as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Thesis statement | (1) |
| Topic sentence | (2) |
| Reason, example, or detail | (3) |

Prompt 1:

Do you believe that followers are just as important as leaders? Give specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

- () For instance, the whole office of the president would be useless if there were not any people around to follow the president's laws.
- () In my opinion, the leader needs his followers just as much as the followers need the leader.
- () First of all, followers are important because without them, leaders would not have any power.

Prompt 2:

Some people feel that humans should be able to dig for oil anywhere, as long as it benefits mankind. Others believe that certain areas of land should be reserved for animal use. Which do you think is better? Give specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

- () Imagine how many species we would lose if we dug for oil in important animal ecosystems.
- () First, we have a responsibility as humans to take care of our fellow creatures on the planet.
- () Though I realize that benefits are lost by reserving certain areas of land just for animal use, I feel that this is the best course of action for several reasons.

Prompt 3:

Do you feel that computer games are good entertainment, or do you think that they are a waste of time? Give specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

- () I know that computer games can be abused, but I still feel that the advantages of computer games are greater than the disadvantages.
- () Computer games provide a much needed escape from the hardships and stress of life's daily activities.
- () For example, whenever I had a bad day as a child, I could simply turn on a computer game and immediately feel better.

Prompt 4:

In your opinion, which do you think was the better invention: the automobile or the computer? Give specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

- () When the automobile was invented, people could travel long distances in a relatively short amount of time.
- () Today, while computers allow us to communicate with other people, the automobile actually lets us see them in person.
- () I believe that the automobile is definitely a better invention than the computer.

► Step 2

Read the following prompts. Complete the thesis statements. Then provide three reasons or examples that you would use to support each thesis in a response.

Prompt 1:

Do you believe that it is just as beneficial for children to lose at games as it is for them to win? Give specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Thesis statement: It is my belief that losing at games _____.

Reason/Example 1: _____

Reason/Example 2: _____

Reason/Example 3: _____

Choose one of the ideas you listed above. Rewrite the idea as a full sentence that could be used as the topic sentence of a body paragraph.

Topic sentence: _____

Prompt 2:

Some people prefer to take multiple choice tests, while others prefer an essay writing format. Which do you prefer? Give specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Thesis statement: I prefer to take tests that _____

Reason/Example 1: _____

Reason/Example 2: _____

Reason/Example 3: _____

Choose one of the ideas you listed above. Rewrite the idea as a full sentence that could be used as the topic sentence of a body paragraph.

Topic sentence: _____

Prompt 3:

The government has decided to donate some money for a construction project in your city. Would you prefer the money be used to create a park, or would you prefer it be used to build a mall? Give specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Thesis statement: I would prefer the money _____

Reason/Example 1: _____

Reason/Example 2: _____

Reason/Example 3: _____

Choose one of the ideas you listed above. Rewrite the idea as a full sentence that could be used as the topic sentence of a body paragraph.

Topic sentence: _____

Prompt 4:

Do you feel it is better to study hard the night before a test, or do you feel that studying should be spread out over a period of time? Give specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Thesis statement: I feel that it is better to study _____

Reason/Example 1: _____

Reason/Example 2: _____

Reason/Example 3: _____

Choose one of the ideas you listed above. Rewrite the idea as a full sentence that could be used as the topic sentence of a body paragraph.

Topic sentence: _____

Chapter 6 Making Ideas Flow

Strategies

- Do NOT try to say everything in the introduction; save details and examples for the body of your essay.
- Do NOT start with a statement that is too general; a more specific statement better sets up the information to follow.

Characteristics of a good introduction:

- one paragraph (three to five sentences)
- an introduction to the general topic of the essay
- includes the thesis statement and a restatement of the question
- includes points that will be discussed or elaborated on in the body

- Write an accurate and clear topic sentence for each body paragraph.
- Make sure there are logical connections between statements.

Characteristics of a good body paragraph:

- one to three paragraphs
- a topic sentence that states the main idea of that paragraph
- has specific examples, reasons, or other details
- includes other sentences that link ideas or show transitions between ideas

- Do NOT use the same words and expressions in your conclusion that you used in your introduction.
- Do NOT introduce new ideas or concepts that belong in a new body paragraph.

Characteristics of a good conclusion:

- one paragraph (three to five sentences)
- a restatement of your thesis in different words
- has a summary of your main points
- includes one or both of the following: a consideration of the opposite opinion and a recommendation

▶ Step 1

Read the prompt and think of ideas to list in the blanks.

Some people believe that it is important to know about one's heritage. Others feel that knowing about one's family history is unnecessary. Which do you believe? Give specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Knowing heritage is important:

- provides greater sense of identity
- generates appreciation for one's roots
- creates closer bond with relatives

Knowing heritage is not important:

- not important for today's society
- discourages unity among people
- records not always available

▶ Step 2

Read the sample response. Think about the role of the sentences in each part of the essay. Look for any transitions that link the ideas and underline them. Then put the sentences in the right order.

Introduction:

- _____
- (A) Perhaps for this reason, less people are interested in knowing about their heritage.
- (B) In fact, my recent attempt to discover my own heritage has led to a greater sense of identity and a closer connection with my relatives.
- (C) Despite this thinking, I believe that it is very important for someone to know about his or her heritage.
- (D) In today's multicultural society, it is becoming harder to keep track of where we come from.

multicultural:

involving or consisting of people from different cultures

heritage:

the history and traditions of preceding generations

roots:

a person's family background

overlook:

to fail to notice something

relative:

a person that is related by blood or marriage

Body paragraph 1:

- (A) Since taking the time to explore these Russian roots, I have come to appreciate an aspect of the world of which I was previously unaware.
- (B) I discovered that my family had emigrated from Russia.
- (C) After this discovery, I took some time to explore Russian literature.
- (D) Two years ago, I attempted to discover my own heritage so I could better understand and appreciate where I came from.
- (E) I found many of the books to be interesting and significant to me.
- (F) Consequently, my new appreciation for my Russian heritage has allowed many interesting paths of knowledge and passion to open up for me.

origin:

the place or situation where someone or something comes from

Body paragraph 2:

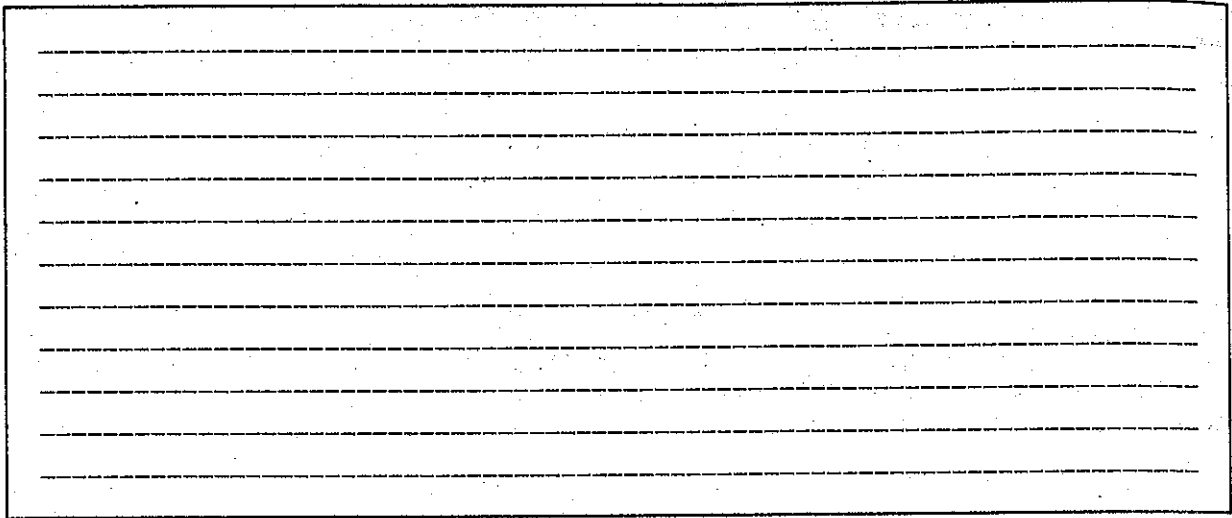
- (A) I also grew closer to many of my relatives and learned a number of interesting things from them.
- (B) These lessons helped me realize that coming to understand one's heritage creates special bonds between relatives.
- (C) I came away from these discussions with a greater knowledge of my own heritage.
- (D) We both have something—an origin—that is shared between us.
- (E) Inspired by my study of Russian literature, I took the time to sit down with some of my older relatives and discussed what they knew about our heritage.

Conclusion:

- (A) I continue to find meaning in the roots I discovered and explored.
- (B) It is a process that can be rewarding to all people if they are open to it.
- (C) Ultimately, learning about my heritage has been a truly interesting process.

► Step 3

Look back at the ideas you wrote in the blanks for Step 1. Write your own response to the prompt using one of your own ideas or another idea from Step 1.

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02 Opinion

READING

LISTENING

SPEAKING

WRITING

PRACTICE TEST

► Step 1

Read the prompt and think of ideas to list in the blanks.

Companies usually offer their employees benefits in addition to their pay. What type of benefits would you prefer at your ideal job and why? Give specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Paid time off from work:

- more time to spend with family
 - able to take time off when sick
 - chance to take long vacations
-
-

Other benefits:

- friendly work environment
 - flexible work schedule
 - able to take short vacations
-
-

► Step 2

Read the sample response. Think about the role of the sentences in each part of the essay. Look for any transitions that link the ideas and underline them. Then put the sentences in the right order.

Introduction:

- (A) Vacation time, sick leave, overtime—all of these are benefits that many companies provide in addition to pay.
- (B) However, now companies are offering many other benefits to their workers.
- (C) Yet in my opinion, the best benefits that a job can offer me are a friendly work environment and a flexible work schedule.
- (D) It used to be that companies simply concentrated on how much to pay their employees.

overtime:

extra hours that people work at their jobs

value:

to consider something to be very important

essential:

absolutely necessary; extremely important

tendency:

an inclination to act in a particular way

environment:

the surroundings or conditions around a person

Body paragraph 1:

fundamental:
being centrally important

- (A) These good conversations make the time at work go by faster.
- (B) I realize that I will not always be able to have conversations with the nicest of employees, but I believe that companies can help make a place where employees can easily interact.
- (C) First, I think that companies need to create a friendly work environment for their employees.
- (D) This interaction between my coworkers and me is something that I value very much at a job.
- (E) I need this friendly work environment because I am the kind of person that enjoys having a good conversation with a person while working.

Body paragraph 2:

- (A) In my case, I enjoy going on short vacations on the weekends.
- (B) This typically requires that I have three days off of work.
- (C) Without this flexibility, I have a tendency to become unhappy with a job.
- (D) A flexible schedule allows employees to make unexpected changes to their plans without having to worry about formally taking time off from work.
- (E) In addition, I find that having a flexible schedule at my job is an essential part of enjoying the job.

Conclusion:

- (A) These two elements are a fundamental part of me enjoying any job that I have.
- (B) In conclusion, I know that my ideal job would be in a place with a friendly environment and a flexible schedule.
- (C) I hope to find both these benefits in the job that I choose as a career.

03

Opinion

► Step 1

Read the prompt and think of ideas to list in the blanks.

Should the government enforce a limited number of hours per week that each citizen can work? Give specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

For government law:

- limit corrupt business practices
 - help overworked employees
 - monitor companies more closely
-
-

Against government law:

- infringe on people's rights
 - have not worked in past
 - create unemployment
-
-

► Step 2

Read the sample response. Think about the role of the sentences in each part of the essay. Look for any transitions that link the ideas and underline them. Then put the sentences in the right order.

Introduction:

- (A) I strongly believe that it is not right for the government to regulate the number of hours a person can work.
- (B) In support of this view, I think it is important to recognize the rights of workers and businesses.
- (C) Additionally, I do not believe that we should give the government so much control over something that will not succeed.
- (D) It is important to recognize the boundaries of where the government should and should not be involved.

regulate:

to impose controls upon a behavior

boundary:

the limit of a subject

infringe:

to break a rule or agreement

favor:

in an attitude of approval

Body paragraph 1:

- (A) Moreover, people should not be limited in the number of hours they work because of a law.
- (B) First of all, allowing the government to control how much time an employee could work would infringe on the rights of both business owners and workers.
- (C) Given the nature of the employee/employer relationship, I don't believe there is need for government regulation.
- (D) If workers are not satisfied with the hours they are asked to work, they can always look for another job.
- (E) In my opinion, only business owners understand how much labor they need from their workers.

Body paragraph 2:

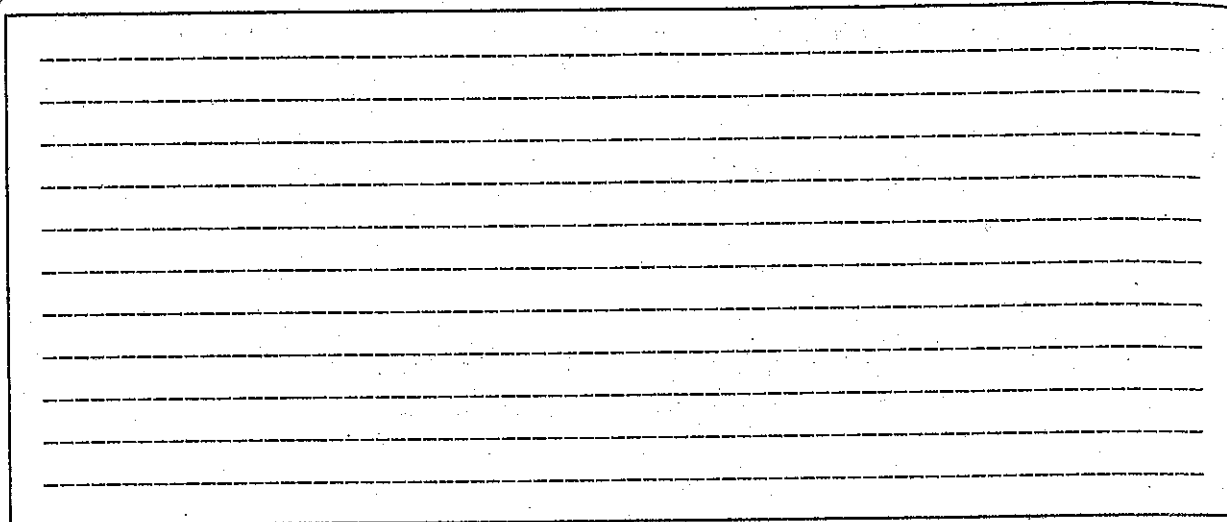
- (A) Unemployment rates in these countries are high, which seems to indicate that government intervention in this business practice is not working.
- (B) They did this in an attempt to help the workers, but this arrangement is achieving the opposite effect.
- (C) In addition, government regulation in this area is not beneficial to society.
- (D) For example, some European governments have already passed restrictions on how many hours each citizen can work.
- (E) Therefore, it seems reasonable to limit the government's power in this area.

Conclusion:

- (A) As a result, I am not in favor of the government passing such a law.
- (B) The law gives the government too much control.
- (C) In conclusion, I see very few reasons for a law controlling hours worked.

► Step 3

Look back at the ideas you wrote in the blanks for Step 1. Write your own response to the prompt using one of your own ideas or another idea from Step 1.

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04 Opinion

READING

LISTENING

SPEAKING

WRITING

PRACTICE TEST

► Step 1

Read the following prompt.

What are some important qualities of a good friend? How have these qualities changed as you have gotten older? Give specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Now read two ideas for possible responses to the prompt. Write one more idea of your own.

1. Good friends are people who listen to you.
2. My best friends are those who I can have long conversations with.
3. _____

► Step 2

Read the sample introduction below. Then, in the space provided, write body paragraphs for two of the ideas above. Try to write three to five sentences for each body paragraph. Then read the sample conclusion paragraph.

Introduction:

Good friends should have many qualities which show that they are trustworthy and true. They should be loyal, interesting, and enjoyable to be around. Yet I have realized that as I have gotten older, the qualities that I believe a good friend should have come down to two important features. I find that the friends who I value the most are those who are willing to listen to me and those who have something to teach me.

Body 1:

► Step 4

Now read the sample response below. What similarities and differences do you see with the paragraphs you wrote?

► Sample Response

Good friends should have many qualities which show that they are trustworthy and true. They should be loyal, interesting, and enjoyable to be around. Yet I have realized that as I have gotten older, the qualities that I believe a good friend should have come down to two important features. I find that the friends who I value the most are those who are willing to listen to me and those who have something to teach me.

Having a friend that can listen is, in my opinion, the most essential part of a good friendship. When I was younger, I rarely had long conversations with my friends. However, as I have gotten older, I enjoy having longer talks. As such, having a friend who is willing to listen to me is a core part of my idea of friendship. Without this willingness to listen, I have an incredibly hard time becoming close to someone. I am more inclined to feel closer to someone who will listen to me, and this is something I highly value in my current friends.

Additionally, I find myself particularly drawn toward people who are passionate about subjects that I myself know very little about. I enjoy discussing subjects with people more knowledgeable about them than I am. Moreover, I find that this is a key part of making someone a good friend. This process of sharing knowledge on subjects that we are passionate about is something I really appreciate. On the other hand, I have had friends in the past who seem to have no passion about anything. In these last few years, I have grown distant from them.

Overall, these two features are what I find most important in my friends. They might not have been as important to me when I was younger. However, they are now the foundation of nearly every friendship that I have.

core:

central; main

willingness:

the quality of being ready to do something

inclined:

feeling willing or drawn to act in a particular way

passionate:

enthusiastic; showing strong feelings

process:

a series of steps necessary to reach a particular goal

distant:

far away from in terms of a relationship

foundation:

the most basic or important part of something

05 Opinion

► Step 1

Read the following prompt.

Some people believe that artists are just as important to society as scientists are. Others feel that scientists contribute more to a society. Which opinion do you prefer? Give specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Now look at the outline of a possible response to the prompt. Then write the thesis and the conclusion.

Thesis: _____

Key point 1: Artists are able to unite people within a society.

Key point 2: The work of artists captures the spirit of a particular time period.

Key point 3: Artists have a special connection with society that allows them to spot changes and give them meaning through their art.

Conclusion: _____

► Step 2

Now write an introduction and a conclusion for the prompt in Step 1. Use your thesis and conclusion from Step 1. Try to write three to five sentences for each paragraph.

Introduction:

Conclusion:

▶ **Step 3**

Write your own response to the prompt in Step 1. First, think of two or three ideas for body paragraphs. Then write a response using your ideas.

Body Paragraph 1:

Body Paragraph 2:

Body Paragraph 3:

► Step 4

Now read the sample response below. What similarities and differences do you see with the paragraphs you wrote?

Without a doubt, scientists are extremely important to a society. However, while I value the role of scientists in a society, I now believe that artists are just as important. I feel that artists bring three major contributions to society.

First, I think that artists play an important role in uniting people. Works of art can act as a common point of identity for all citizens within a society. It seems that nearly any nation in the world has at least one artistic work that its people can identify with. In the US, the Statue of Liberty is something that brings people together and creates a shared bond. I believe that art does a wonderful job of binding citizens together within a society.

Additionally, I feel that artists contribute to society by creating timeless works that capture the spirit of a particular time. For instance, my favorite painting of the 18th century French emperor Napoleon on his horse expresses the glory of the period. The figure of Napoleon dominates the painting and gives one an idea of French attitudes toward their ruler. In this way, artists create important pieces of art that help express the period in a way that history books cannot.

Finally, I think that artists have a special connection with the society around them. This connection allows artists to spot new changes in society and give them meaning. Many of the artists of the Renaissance, for example, expressed the changing attitudes and views long before scholars expressed these concepts. This cultural connection allows artists to play a key role in shaping public perceptions that may be changing in a society.

These connections to culture and society give artists an important role. While artists may not be curing diseases or creating new inventions, they are creating works of cultural expression that are important socially and historically.

unite:

to join together

Identify:

to associate closely with something else

bind:

to connect two or more things together

timeless:

unchanged by the passage of time

dominate:

to overpower

Renaissance:

the period in Europe between the 14th and 16th centuries when there was an increased interest in art and literature

scholar:

a specialist in a particular branch of study

perception:

a way of understanding or thinking about something

06 Opinion

▶ Step 1

Read the following prompt.

Some people believe that first impressions are very accurate. Others get to know someone before forming an opinion. Which do you think is better? Give specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Now look at the outline of a possible response to the prompt. First, identify which side of the argument the responses support. Then write one more idea of your own that supports that side of the argument.

First impressions:

1. help us determine whether to talk to someone again in the future
2. establish how a person is viewed by others
3. _____

▶ Step 2

Read the sample introduction below. Then, in the space provided, try to write body paragraphs for two of the ideas above. Try to write three to five sentences for each body paragraph. Then read the sample conclusion paragraph.

Introduction:

I know that sometimes first impressions of people can be wrong. Yet I believe that it is important to rely on these first impressions. First impressions play a key role in future interactions and can be an important part of nearly all relationships.

Body 1:

► Step 4

Now read the sample response below. What similarities and differences do you see with the paragraphs you wrote?

► Sample Response

I know that sometimes first impressions of people can be wrong. Yet I believe that it is important to rely on these first impressions. First impressions play a **key** role in future interactions and can be an important part of nearly all relationships.

One reason why I believe that first impressions are important is that they usually determine whether you will interact with a person again. For example, if I get a **bad** first impression of someone I have just met, I am likely to avoid interacting with that person in the future. As a result, first impressions for me are what usually lead to any future encounters.

Even if two people interact after their first meeting, it is likely that the first impression will remain with them over the course of their relationship. In my own experience, I once met a person at a party who spoke negatively about a **friend**. This made me think that this person was not trustworthy. I have spoken with this individual several times since then, and I have never heard him say anything else that was negative. However, because of that first impression, I still cannot bring myself to trust him.

Also, first impressions of people are often used to describe them to others. This has happened with me many times. If, for instance, I meet a person and she is very quiet initially, I am likely to describe her as quiet to others. Even if the person later opens up and becomes quite talkative, I am still inclined to describe her as quiet because of my first impression of her.

Given the way a first impression affects my own perception of a person, I believe that it is very important. While I might talk with a person again many times after that first interaction, the first impression I had with that person always stays with me.

impression:

an idea, feeling, or opinion about someone

determine:

to decide something

interact:

to communicate with each other

negatively:

in a harmful or adverse way

trustworthy:

able to be trusted

individual:

one person

initially:

at first

talkative:

known to do a lot of talking

Vocabulary Review 3

Instructions: Choose the best word or phrase to complete each sentence.

1. Carolyn takes the _____ in the morning so she doesn't have to drive her car.
(A) obligation
(B) traffic
(C) subway
(D) congestion
2. My uncle has a gloomy _____ on life, but my aunt is a very positive person.
(A) option
(B) schedule
(C) discipline
(D) outlook
3. I've never been a fan of _____ art because I can never tell what the subject really is.
(A) abstract
(B) appealing
(C) comprehensive
(D) efficient
4. It's important for people to keep their _____ in order, so they know how much money they have.
(A) peers
(B) theories
(C) finances
(D) excuses
5. They found a great house in the _____ north of the city.
(A) crisis
(B) preferences
(C) traffic
(D) suburbs
6. My history professor is very _____ about ancient civilizations, so his lectures are very interesting.
(A) knowledgeable
(B) structured
(C) efficient
(D) practical
7. Steve is taking _____ chemistry this year, but he's always been good at science.
(A) linked
(B) renewed
(C) advanced
(D) structured
8. Usually when people catch colds, they have nasal _____, also known as a stuffy nose.
(A) obligation
(B) option
(C) congestion
(D) disruption
9. The school board is making changes to the _____ that will be taught next year.
(A) preference
(B) schedule
(C) productivity
(D) curriculum
10. Sometimes it is hard to _____ a person's true character right away.
(A) ensure
(B) flow
(C) discern
(D) shift

11. She has been looking for _____ for about four months now, but still hasn't found a job.
- (A) obligation
 - (B) peers
 - (C) shortage
 - (D) employment
12. Hank is very intelligent academically, but he doesn't make very _____ decisions.
- (A) structured
 - (B) practical
 - (C) comprehensive
 - (D) fatal
13. I didn't see how today's lecture was _____ to the reading that was assigned.
- (A) relevant
 - (B) disruptive
 - (C) efficient
 - (D) civic
14. In order to become a doctor, you have to _____ a lot of things about the human body.
- (A) yield
 - (B) memorize
 - (C) design
 - (D) minimize
15. Gas _____ in many places around the world are making it too expensive to drive vehicles.
- (A) outlooks
 - (B) theories
 - (C) shortages
 - (D) excuses

Instructions: Choose the word closest in meaning to the underlined word or phrase.

16. Not wearing a seat belt can increase the chances of a deadly injury occurring in a car accident.
- (A) fatal
 - (B) key
 - (C) comprehensive
 - (D) entire
17. There is something very attractive about a big slice of chocolate cake.
- (A) discerning
 - (B) relevant
 - (C) appealing
 - (D) productive
18. Strange weather patterns in the 18th century were related to a volcanic eruption.
- (A) acquired
 - (B) linked
 - (C) constructed
 - (D) exposed
19. He could not come to lunch with us today because he had a commitment at work.
- (A) obligation
 - (B) preference
 - (C) shortage
 - (D) insight
20. People usually take aspirin to reduce pain, but it is also good for preventing heart attacks.
- (A) renew
 - (B) congest
 - (C) minimize
 - (D) discern

21. Ice cream stores now have a lot of flavor choices to suit anyone's taste.
(A) theories
(B) peers
(C) crises
(D) options
22. The whole family went on vacation this year to Hawaii, and they all had a good time.
(A) entire
(B) potential
(C) various
(D) structured
23. The company decided to change their marketing strategy to make their products more appealing to customers.
(A) flow
(B) shift
(C) acquire
(D) expose
24. There are different ways to prepare for a test, so it is good to find out what works best for you.
(A) relevant
(B) appealing
(C) various
(D) disruptive
25. Farms produce the majority of fruits, vegetables, and other foods that we buy at the store.
(A) yield
(B) injure
(C) memorize
(D) construct
26. I was able to get the latest video game console before the store sold out of them.
(A) produce
(B) acquire
(C) oblige
(D) discern
27. She offered no reason for why she did not attend class the past two weeks.
(A) schedule
(B) behavior
(C) shortage
(D) excuse
28. The coach thought it was easily understood what he expected from his players, but he was mistaken.
(A) efficient
(B) obvious
(C) comprehensive
(D) key
29. When there are a lot of things going on at once, sometimes it is easier to make plans to stay on track.
(A) appeals
(B) outskirts
(C) insights
(D) schedules
30. Molly revealed Susan's secret, so now Susan feels like her best friend has betrayed her.
(A) ensured
(B) disrupted
(C) abstracted
(D) exposed

Vocabulary Review 4

Instructions: Choose the best word or phrase to complete each sentence.

1. She has a _____ to forget things, so she writes lists to remind herself of what she needs to do.
(A) origin
(B) tendency
(C) heritage
(D) perception
2. I haven't known him very long, so I don't really know how _____ he is.
(A) linked
(B) timeless
(C) multicultural
(D) trustworthy
3. Leonardo DaVinci is a famous artist and inventor who lived during the _____ era.
(A) Willingness
(B) Individual
(C) Renaissance
(D) Timeless
4. Aaron is going to visit his _____ in Italy this summer, and he's really excited about going.
(A) relatives
(B) impressions
(C) boundaries
(D) regulations
5. My sister always gets in trouble at school because she's so _____. She just can't stay quiet during class.
(A) binding
(B) essential
(C) talkative
(D) scholarly
6. Sometimes when you are in a hurry, it is easy to _____ small details.
(A) overlook
(B) identify
(C) dominate
(D) infringe
7. Recently, a lot of people are interested in tracing their family trees and discovering their _____.
(A) scholars
(B) processes
(C) favors
(D) roots
8. Carol's boss asked her to work _____ tomorrow, so she won't be able to go to the movies with us.
(A) overtime
(B) individual
(C) distance
(D) origin
9. Many countries place a lot of emphasis on preserving their cultural _____.
(A) scholars
(B) heritage
(C) essentials
(D) boundary
10. When taking a multiple choice test, sometimes it is hard to _____ the correct answers.
(A) unite
(B) infringe
(C) interact
(D) determine

11. Peter is very _____ about acting. He wants to attend a performing arts school next year.
- (A) timeless
 - (B) multicultural
 - (C) passionate
 - (D) trustworthy
12. I like being around my friends and family, but I also _____ the time I get to spend alone.
- (A) value
 - (B) overlook
 - (C) process
 - (D) identify
13. The most popular classic literature usually has _____ themes, which anyone can relate to.
- (A) distant
 - (B) willing
 - (C) timeless
 - (D) negative
14. The _____ of fortune cookies was in California, not in China like many westerners think.
- (A) perception
 - (B) core
 - (C) origin
 - (D) favor
15. Many countries nowadays are _____, which I think makes visiting places more interesting.
- (A) perceptive
 - (B) multicultural
 - (C) essential
 - (D) original

Instructions: Choose the word closest in meaning to the underlined word or phrase.

16. The government controls what kind of business practices are legal in order to protect consumers.
- (A) interacts
 - (B) unites
 - (C) infringes
 - (D) regulates
17. We must start taking care of our surroundings before it is too late to undo the damage.
- (A) environment
 - (B) boundaries
 - (C) foundations
 - (D) heritage
18. My first thought when I saw the painting was that I didn't like it, but it's really not that bad.
- (A) passion
 - (B) impression
 - (C) process
 - (D) domination
19. Melanie does not really support one team or the other because she doesn't care for football.
- (A) favor
 - (B) regulate
 - (C) perceive
 - (D) trust
20. It is very important that students arrive on time when taking the college entrance exam.
- (A) negative
 - (B) timeless
 - (C) essential
 - (D) original

21. My younger brother often pushes the limits of my patience, but I love him anyway.
- (A) cores
 - (B) scholars
 - (C) individuals
 - (D) boundaries
22. They were not willing to loan Mark any more money because he never pays them back.
- (A) united
 - (B) favored
 - (C) inclined
 - (D) valued
23. At first, I didn't want to go to the party, but once I was there I had a really good time.
- (A) initially
 - (B) essentially
 - (C) regularly
 - (D) distantly
24. Schools have begun to teach children about central values to help them become good citizens.
- (A) impressible
 - (B) talkative
 - (C) negative
 - (D) core
25. My roommate says she feels like she has become emotionally far away from her old friends.
- (A) united
 - (B) distant
 - (C) fundamental
 - (D) willing
26. In the past, the basics of learning were considered to be reading, writing, and math.
- (A) foundations
 - (B) scholars
 - (C) relatives
 - (D) origins
27. Each person needs to submit an application to be considered for the position of manager.
- (A) inclination
 - (B) tendency
 - (C) individual
 - (D) perception
28. A person is considered an academic in a field of study when he or she specializes in that subject.
- (A) processor
 - (B) environmentalist
 - (C) relation
 - (D) scholar
29. When learning anything new, it is important to get the basics down before moving on to the next level.
- (A) interactions
 - (B) heritages
 - (C) fundamentals
 - (D) origins
30. When asked to recognize who he had seen at the scene of the crime, Bryan was no longer sure what the man looked like.
- (A) identify
 - (B) infringe
 - (C) bind
 - (D) impress

Instructions: Write the missing words. Use the words below to fill in the blanks.

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| initially | passionate |
| interacted | relatives |
| inclined | negatively |
| Renaissance | individual |
| scholars | valued |

Isabella d' Este was one of the most famous women during the Italian **31.** _____ era. Her official title was Marchesa of Mantua, but due to her noble **32.** _____ she was related to nearly every ruler in Italy at the time. Isabella was well educated and **33.** _____ learning. Due to her influence, many artists, **34.** _____ and musicians came to Mantua. She **35.** _____ with Renaissance figures such as Raphael, Da Vinci, and Titan. It is said that she was a **36.** _____ collector of ancient coins and Roman sculptures. Isabella was also **37.** _____ toward politics. In fact, she ruled Mantua in her husband's absence while he was being held hostage in Venice. **38.** _____, upon his return, he acted **39.** _____ toward her for being a better ruler than he. Isabella was such a remarkable **40.** _____ that she is sometimes called the First Lady of the Renaissance.

Instructions: Choose one word in each group that does not belong.

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| 41. readiness | eagerness |
| trustworthiness | willingness |
| 42. infringe | unite |
| violate | breach |
| 43. connect | attach |
| interact | bind |
| 44. view | perception |
| opinion | identify |
| 45. process | method |
| regulation | procedure |

Instructions: Match the words that are opposites.

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| 46. overlook | (A) separate |
| 47. unite | (B) silent |
| 48. timeless | (C) dislike |
| 49. favor | (D) dated |
| 50. talkative | (E) notice |

