SOUTH DAKOTA ENGLISH 12 · UNIT 3

Writing and Communication — Practice Test

South Dakota English 12 • 25 questions

This practice test was made by AI and there may be mistakes. If a question or answer looks wrong, use the Flag a mistake button to let Brett know so he can fix it.

Source I - Draft Opening of an Essay

Use this reading for questions 1 to 4.

Many schools should start later in the morning. Teenagers need sleep. Buses are a problem. Some students work after school. Later starts could help students pay attention. This paper will discuss sleep, buses, and jobs.

The writer of this draft knows the topic but has not yet shaped a clear argument. The ideas are listed rather than connected, and the reader cannot tell which reason matters most or what evidence will follow.

1 **According to Source I, what is the main weakness of the draft opening?**

- **A** it has no topic at all
- **B** its ideas are listed rather than connected, with no clear main claim or order
- **C** it is too long
- **D** it uses too much evidence

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2 **According to Source I, which revision would most improve the opening?**

A add more unrelated topics

B state a clear thesis and preview reasons in logical order

C remove the thesis entirely

D repeat the first sentence five times

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3 **According to Source I, the sentence This paper will discuss sleep, buses, and jobs is weak because it**

A is a question

B is too short to be a sentence

C announces topics without making an arguable claim

D uses a quotation

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4 **According to Source I, a stronger thesis for this essay would**

A list bus times only

B state that sleep is nice

C ask what time school starts

D claim that schools should start later because rested students learn better, even though schedules must be replanned

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Source II - A Speech Draft

Use this reading for questions 5 to 8.

Friends, we have a choice. We can keep a park that is safe and clean, or we can let it fall apart and lose the one free place where our whole neighborhood gathers. I have volunteered in this park for three years, and I have seen children learn to ride bikes on its paths and older neighbors meet for morning walks.

Some will say repairs cost too much. They are right that money is tight. But the cost of losing the park, in safety, health, and community, is higher. Let us fix the paths, add lights, and keep this park open for everyone.

5 **According to Source II, the speaker appeals to credibility mainly by**

- **A** citing a scientific study
- **B** noting three years of volunteering in the park
- **C** threatening listeners
- **D** reading a poem

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6 **According to Source II, the speaker appeals to emotion mainly by**

- A describing children learning to ride bikes and neighbors meeting for walks
- B listing budget numbers
- C defining the word park
- D quoting a law

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7 **According to Source II, how does the speaker handle the cost objection?**

- A by ignoring it
- B by denying repairs cost anything
- C by conceding money is tight, then arguing the cost of losing the park is higher
- D by blaming listeners

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8 **According to Source II, the final sentence functions as**

A a new introduction

B a question for research

C a summary of park history

D a call to action

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9 **In a five paragraph essay, how many body paragraphs are there?**

ANSWER _____

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10

A topic sentence should

A appear at the end of every essay

B state the main idea of its paragraph

C repeat the title

D list all sources

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11

Which transition best shows contrast?

A however

B for example

C in addition

D first

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12 **A conclusion should**

A introduce a brand new argument with no evidence

B repeat the introduction word for word

C restate the thesis in new words and leave a final thought

D end with a new quotation and no comment

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13 **Audience awareness in writing means**

A writing the same way for everyone

B avoiding any examples

C using the longest words possible

D adjusting tone, detail, and formality for the intended readers

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14 **Which is the best example of a strong, arguable thesis?**

- A dogs are animals
- B school lunch programs should offer fresh meals daily because nutrition affects learning and health
- C this essay is about lunch
- D many people eat lunch

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15 **Revising is different from editing because revising focuses on**

- A ideas, organization, and evidence
- B spelling only
- C handwriting
- D page numbers

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16 **Which sentence gives the best evidence for a claim about reading?**

- **A** reading is great
- **B** everyone should read
- **C** in a 2024 school survey, students who read 20 minutes daily scored higher on vocabulary tests
- **D** books are old

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17 **Logos appeals mainly to**

- **A** fear
- **B** music
- **C** the writer's fame
- **D** logic, reasons, and evidence

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18 **Pathos appeals mainly to**

A logic only

B emotion

C grammar rules

D citation format

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19 **Which is the most formal tone?**

A The committee requests a review of the proposal

B Hey guys, this stuff is cool

C Wow, totally amazing

D Just trust me on this

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20 **Peer review is most useful when the reviewer**

- A only praises the draft
- B rewrites the whole draft
- C gives specific comments on ideas, organization, and clarity
- D checks spelling and nothing else

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21 **A good body paragraph usually**

- A ends with a new thesis
- B lists five unrelated ideas
- C repeats the thesis five times
- D states one main idea, supports it with evidence, and explains the evidence

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22 **Which opening is most effective for a persuasive essay?**

A I am going to write about parks

B Every child deserves a safe park, yet ours is falling apart, and the town must act now

C Parks exist in towns

D This is my essay

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23 **When writing for a formal audience, a writer should avoid**

A slang and casual abbreviations

B clear topic sentences

C evidence

D logical order

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24 **What is the purpose of an outline?**

- **A** to replace drafting
- **B** to hide weak evidence
- **C** to plan order and grouping of ideas before drafting
- **D** to add citations after grading

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25 **Which sentence is most concise?**

- **A** Due to the fact that it was raining, we stayed inside
- **B** Rain happened and we stayed inside because of rain happening
- **C** It was raining and because of rain we stayed inside due to rain
- **D** Because it was raining, we stayed inside

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ANSWER KEY

1.	B	**10.**	B	**19.**	A
2.	B	**11.**	A	**20.**	C
3.	C	**12.**	C	**21.**	D
4.	D	**13.**	D	**22.**	B
5.	B	**14.**	B	**23.**	A
6.	A	**15.**	A	**24.**	C
7.	C	**16.**	C	**25.**	D
8.	D	**17.**	D		
9.	3	**18.**	B		

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