

End-of-Year Test

Writing

DIRECTIONS Gabriel remembers that when his older brother applied for college, the process was extremely complicated. It caused Gabriel’s family stress and anxiety. Gabriel wants to write an essay to present to the Springview High School administration to propose a solution to this problem.

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| <p>1 The BEST way for Gabriel to explain the problem to the administration is to—</p> <p>A compare it with other problems that aren’t as serious</p> <p>B provide his answers to the 5W-How? questions</p> <p>C disagree with other solutions to the problem</p> <p>D provide Web addresses so that the administrators can find information</p> | <p>2 While Gabriel researches the problem, he should also—</p> <p>A think about where he wants to go to college</p> <p>B find out what other problems students have</p> <p>C think about starting his applications early</p> <p>D find out what solutions have been tried</p> |
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Here is a rough draft of Gabriel’s essay. Use it to answer questions 3–10.

My older brother, Steve, just finished his first year of college. I really
 (1) enjoy listening to his stories and imagining what it will be like when I
 (2) attend college in two years. One thing he said, though, got me thinking
 (3) about what I would have to do before I could start college. When I asked
 (4) him what his hardest class was, he laughed and said, “Well, I guess it was
 Chemistry 101, but no college class was as hard as applying for college
 was!” I remember the stress our family experienced when Steve went
 (5) through the process of applying to colleges. In order to get it done, he and
 (6) our parents were as busy as bees during Steve’s junior and senior years of
 high school. This is a problem that occurs in households across the country
 (7) every year, but it’s a problem that can be solved. Springview High can help
 (8) students and their families solve the problem of completing the college-
 application process.

Studies conducted by several area colleges show that admission is
 (9) increasingly competitive with each passing year. As a result, the application
 (10)

GO ON 

procedure becomes more complicated, and more time is required to understand it thoroughly. Alex Breton, career counselor at Springview High, said,⁽¹¹⁾ “A few years ago, I felt comfortable if students started their applications in the spring of junior year. Now I encourage them to begin as soon as they enter tenth grade.”⁽¹²⁾

The best solution to the college-application problem is for high schools⁽¹³⁾ to make the process part of the regular curriculum. Some people think that hiring an additional school counselor to help students with applications⁽¹⁴⁾ might solve the problem. However, the application process provides a “real life” scenario that is appropriate for high school students, and it fits⁽¹⁵⁾ effortlessly into existing high school courses. As an example, for a tenth-grade history project,⁽¹⁶⁾ students can research the history of the colleges that interest them most and write reports based on their research.

In computer classes, they can design Web pages with special sites for⁽¹⁷⁾ college admissions officers to read.

The difficulty of applying for college is a serious problem. By making⁽¹⁸⁾ the college-application process part of the regular high school curriculum,⁽¹⁹⁾ Springview High School administrators will help more students be successful. Let’s work together to incorporate the college-application process into⁽²⁰⁾ our regular classes.

3 Which phrase should Gabriel add after the word *Steve* in sentence 1 to BEST catch readers’ attention?

- A a 4.0 student
- B a history major
- C a college freshman
- D a Springview graduate

4 In sentence 6, were as busy as bees is BEST written—

- A didn’t monkey around
- B worked countless hours
- C were as busy as beavers
- D bit off more than they could chew

End-of-Year Test *continued***WRITING**

- 5** What should Gabriel add to the end of sentence 8 to make his proposed solution clear?
- A and help them get into their chosen colleges
 - B in less time than it takes most people now
 - C by making it part of the regular curriculum
 - D so they won't get stressed out before graduation
- 6** Which sentence provides the BEST evidence to support sentence 9?
- A A record number of students took college-entrance exams this year, and that number is expected to rise, says a national newspaper.
 - B Springview students requested more than four hundred letters of recommendation last year, reported the school counselor.
 - C According to Lewis Grafton, director of admissions at Western Hills College, "The number of very strong applicants has risen every year."
 - D This trend is also being reported by colleges and universities coast to coast.
- 7** Which of these is BEST for Gabriel to add between his second and third paragraphs?
- A a discussion of solutions others have already proposed
 - B a series of anecdotes about the application process
 - C an explanation of the reason Gabriel is writing to the administration
 - D a summary of the main points of Gabriel's essay
- 8** Which sentence would BEST follow sentence 16?
- A This will help students select the colleges that best suit their interests.
 - B In English classes, they can learn to prepare application essays.
 - C Today, many colleges provide histories on their official Web sites.
 - D Knowing how to do historical research is a valuable skill for college.
- 9** Which sentence would be the MOST appropriate to add after sentence 17?
- A Most students would like the chance to develop their own Web pages.
 - B Some Springview students will transfer to other schools unless you provide a solution to this problem.
 - C These activities will help students develop college-application skills at little or no extra cost to the school.
 - D It won't look good for Springview if our graduates are not accepted by the colleges of their choice.
- 10** Which of these clauses is BEST for Gabriel to add to the end of sentence 18 to show the importance of his solution?
- A that affects students, parents, teachers, counselors, and even administrators
 - B and should be looked into by the administration as soon as possible
 - C but there are many possible solutions that have been proposed in this essay
 - D and evidence shows that other schools are trying to do something

