

## Reading ACAP 8th

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. A student is writing an editorial for a school newspaper. Read the paragraph from the editorial.

All football players at our school should be required to have their last names on their jerseys in addition to their uniform numbers. Our players recently voted to put their nicknames on their uniforms instead of their last names. But since our school does not distribute programs for our home games, spectators must now identify all the players by just a number and a nickname. \_\_\_\_\_, the fans who support our team should be able to determine who each player is without having to memorize dozens of nicknames.

Which word or phrase **best** clarifies the relationship between the sentences?

- A. Instead
  - B. Otherwise
  - C. As a result
  - D. In that case
2. A student is preparing the works cited page for a research paper. Read the citation style being used for a magazine article.

Author. "Title of Article." *Title of Magazine*, Day Month Year, Pages.

Which magazine article citation is written in the correct style?

- A. "Calling for Change" by Carl Hughes. *Time*, 23 Oct. 2013. pp. 75–77.
  - B. Hughes, Carl. "Calling for Change." *Time*, 23 Oct. 2013, pp. 75–77.
  - C. *Time*. "Calling for Change." Carl Hughes. Oct. 23, 2013, pp. 75–77.
  - D. Carl Hughes. *Calling for Change*. "Time" 23 Oct. 2013: pp. 75–77.
3. Which sentence contains punctuation to indicate omitted words?
- A. When I looked out of the window of my home and saw snow, I was completely astonished.
  - B. Most cats (and some dogs) enjoy eating fish.
  - C. I planned on taking many things to the beach, including a chair, a pair of sunglasses, . . . and a book.
  - D. Today I had time to start reading a new book—finally!

## Public Bicycle Systems

### City Council Member Editorial

The city council recently heard a proposal requesting the implementation of a public "bikes for rent" program. The details of the program have yet to be specified. The general principle, however, is that the city will provide bicycles at designated locations throughout downtown. People will be able to rent a bike for a small fee. They can then "check in" or return the bike later at the same or another location. Proponents of the program believe that the program will make downtown travel and parking more convenient and that it will cut down on noise and air pollution—making our city a more environmentally friendly place. While I am all for environmental friendliness and improved traffic flow, I must vote against such a program at this time.

First and foremost is the expense. The city must buy bicycles and locks. Even with discounts provided by local bike shops, this requires a substantial investment that the city just can't afford. Special bike racks also need to be installed at designated locations throughout the city. The bike racks themselves require a great expense in materials and setup. Tracking systems—which included electronic locks and magnetic striped "smart" cards—can be quite expensive to install.

In addition, there are insurance and bicycle replacement costs. Theft and vandalism are common problems with many bike rental programs. Anti-theft devices and onboard computers can be installed to help cut down on these losses. In addition to covering theft and vandalism, insurance must also cover liability for possible injury or accident. However, implementing these is very expensive and will require monitoring—an additional cost.

Yearly maintenance costs will also need to be considered. All bikes need to be tuned up, oiled, and washed on a regular basis. Chains break, tires go flat, and brakes wear down. Maintenance costs must be figured into the program's budget.

Aside from costs, accidents are always a concern. Our city has very few designated bike lanes. Therefore, cars and bikes will be sharing the roads in an already congested city. Accidents will be unavoidable, especially during peak travel times, such as rush hour. Accidents can have serious consequences; even a minor accident can tie up downtown streets for an hour or more, take up the valuable time of police officers, and add to the stress of people wanting to get to work or back home.

Bike programs in other cities do not have good track records. Several cities have tried to implement them with good intentions and failed because of excessive expenses. Seattle, Washington, is ranked the fifth-friendliest city for bikes in the United States by *Bicycling* magazine. Despite this, however, the city put a stop to its bike-share program. A number of factors played a role in the halt of the program, but it is no surprise that lack of funding was a leading reason. If the fifth-friendliest city for bikes in the United States couldn't find success with this program, how can our city expect to succeed?

Our city is looking for ways to cut expenses in the annual budget. It cannot afford to take on such a major financial commitment. Where can we possibly find funding for such a program? How can we ask taxpayers to fund an expensive experiment? I agree that we need to make

our city easily accessible and increase its environmental friendliness, but not at the expense of the taxpayer or of other city programs.

## **Student Editorial**

Our city council has been discussing the idea of supplying bicycles for public use. I believe the students at our school should support this idea. Making bicycles easily accessible to rent at different locations around the city is a very sensible idea.

To begin with, using bicycles would cut down on the number of cars on the road, which would help the environment. The environmental damage caused by automobile pollution has been well publicized. In fact, the Environmental Protection Agency advocates the use of bicycles as a way to reduce the pollution caused by vehicles and engines. This pollution not only causes harm to the environment but also contributes to human health problems.

According to the Washington State Department of Ecology, toxic air pollutants from automobile emissions are known to cause or are suspected to cause a number of health problems and serious illnesses. The pollutants can be inhaled directly or be carried by small particles into the lungs.

Using bikes in place of cars would do more than cut down on health hazards. It would also improve the health of those who participate in the program. For most, riding a bike frequently would generally improve an individual's health. People would feel energized, and this in turn could create a more positive community environment.

A public bicycle system would also help both individuals and the city save money. When cars are not used as often, money is saved on gas. Some people may even be able to give up their cars completely, using the public bikes and other forms of transportation instead. Costs from car repairs and insurance would also be saved. The city would save money because fewer parking spaces would be needed for cars. Providing enough parking spaces for cars along streets and in parking structures is much more expensive than providing parking for bicycles.

Bike sharing has been successfully implemented in more than 100 cities across the United States. Even in cities like Seattle, Washington, where the bike program was discontinued, community support never wavered. Although Seattle discontinued its bike program, which I am sure it could resurrect again with better planning, the program never lacked sponsorship from the community and businesses. Alaska Airlines committed to sponsoring the Seattle bike program with \$1,000 per bike for 5 years. This comes out to roughly \$500,000 per year. Additional sponsors also quickly signed up to support the program. However, due to a lack of planning and promotion, the program could not take off as intended.

We will not face the same situation if proper planning and promotion are put in place here. We have several large local companies that would likely be interested in sponsoring such a program. Additionally, visitors to our city would enjoy having a bike system available to them because there are a number of places they could visit, such as the historic part of town, the zoo, and the art museum—all of which are fairly close together. Advertising the city's public bike system could also be a good way to attract visitors and bring money into the city.

The city council should most certainly vote in favor of establishing a public bike system. That is the only responsible decision—a decision that considers our environment, our city, and our citizens. I encourage all the students at our school to e-mail a city council member to make our views known and to ask our parents to do the same.

4. How does the city council member acknowledge the opposing side of the argument regarding the proposal for a public bicycle system?
- A. The city council member asks questions about other programs for the read to consider.
  - B. The city council member references a publication that the reader may be familiar with.
  - C. The city council member discusses the budget limitations the city is facing before declaring that taxpayers would need to fund the program.
  - D. The city council member includes information about the positive effects the program could have before describing the obstacles the city would face.

5. Read the summary of "Student Editorial."

A public bicycle system would be a good idea for many reasons. Air quality, and therefore individual health, would improve because of reduced pollution by automobiles. Businesses in the city would likely want to help provide funding for the bike-sharing program. Visitors to the city could use the bikes, and people may even be attracted to visit the city because of the program.

Choose a key detail that is missing from the summary.

- A. People and the city could also save money if cars were used less.
- B. More than 100 cities across the country have bike-sharing programs.
- C. Corporate sponsors have made large donations to support bike sharing.
- D. Environmental initiatives often fail due to lack of planning and promotion.

6. Read the claim from "Student Editorial."

Making bicycles easily accessible to rent at different locations around the city is a very sensible idea.

Which sentence from the passage **best** supports the claim?

- A. I believe the students at our school should support this idea.
- B. People would feel energized, and this in turn could create a more positive community environment.
- C. When cars are not used as often, money is saved on gas.
- D. The city council should most certainly vote in favor of establishing a public bike system.

7. Read the paragraph from "Student Editorial."

Bike sharing has successfully been implemented in more than 100 cities across the United States. Even in cities like Seattle, Washington, where the bike program was discontinued, community support never wavered. Although Seattle discontinued its bike program, which I am sure it could resurrect again with better planning, the program never lacked sponsorship from the community and businesses. Alaska Airlines committed to sponsoring the Seattle bike program with \$1,000 per bike for 5 years. This comes out to roughly \$500,000 per year. Additional sponsors also quickly signed up to support the program. However, due to a lack of planning and promotion, the program could not take off as intended.

What impact does the information in the paragraph have on the claim that a bike-sharing program should be implemented?

- A. The way that the bike program in Seattle was sponsored is described to discredit the idea that a bike program would be too expensive for the city.
  - B. The lack of planning for the bike program in Seattle is described to suggest that the city will need to employ people to work on advertisements for the bike program.
  - C. The fact that the bike program in Seattle was discontinued is described to reveal that people who use the bike program will need to be willing to pay for the bikes.
  - D. The type of company that was willing to support the bike program in Seattle is described to hint at the size of company that will be needed for the local bike program.
8. In the passages, the city council member and the student each have a strong opinion concerning the topic of bike sharing. Write an essay analyzing the similarities in opinion of the city council member and the student. Use evidence from **both** passages to support your answer.