

CHAPTER 5: Writing the Essay

Answer Key

PRACTICE 1

1. Our government is good.

Problem: Vague

Revised statement: *Answers will vary.*

2. Road rage.

Problem: Incomplete

Revised statement: *Answers will vary.*

3. I am going to write about beauty pageants.

Problem: Announces

Revised statement: *Answers will vary.*

4. Traditional marriage is outdated.

Problem: Invalid

Revised statement: *Answers will vary.*

5. Compensation for victims of crime.

Problem: Incomplete

Revised statement: *Answers will vary.*

PRACTICE 2

1. Dorothy Duke, the tobacco heiress, was rich, but she was renowned as an unhappy woman. She was alone during the last years of her life. She had no friends or family at her bedside during her final hours; indeed, some speculate that her own staff helped bring about her death. In Dorothy Duke's case, money did not buy her happiness or peace of mind. **Although many people feel that money will solve their problems, having too much money may cause more problems than it solves.**

Style: a. Anecdote b. General c. Historical d. Contrasting position

2. Life would be great if you won the lottery. There would be no work-related stress. You could stay home, sit by the pool, or play a game of golf. With a lot of money, you would not worry about your retirement; you could retire now! That nice house by the beach could be yours. It sounds great, right? But living a life of ease may not be so fantastic after all. **Money does not necessarily lead to happiness.**

Style: a. Anecdote b. General c. Historical d. Contrasting position

3. In the past, civilizations bartered with items. A cow could be traded for a small plot of land. Later, silver and gold were formed into coins. Because the coins translated into more goods or more land, they were coveted. Today, we are a money-obsessed nation.

Everybody wants the dream house, the nice car, and the vacation by a beach. **However, if you want to be truly happy, the pursuit of money should not guide your life.**

Style: a. Anecdote b. General ☒ c. Historical d. Opposite position

4. This is a materialistic nation. Advertisements instill a longing for consumer goods. At a young age, people learn that money equals success. Consequently, many average folks spend their lives pursuing wealth. Some may work long hours or have two jobs. Others buy lottery tickets or invest in stocks, dreaming of the wealth they will have one day. **However, when money becomes the primary focus, people may neglect other, much more important aspects of their lives.**

Style: a. Anecdote ☒ b. General c. Historical d. Opposite position

PRACTICE 3

Body Paragraph 1

The primary rationale for an arranged marriage is to achieve a secure link between two people. The couple shares the same values and upbringing. Since the families arrange the marital contract, the man and woman will most likely belong to the same ethnicity, class, and religion, and they will have a similar upbringing. Therefore, it is easy for the couple to share common principles or ideals. For example, John and Nisha understood each other from the start of their relationship. Both came from a similar background and had the same goals.

Body Paragraph 2

Moreover, the couple in the arranged marriage has the support of both extended families, which is important for the future success of the relationship. Marriages are considered to be an agreement between families and not just between two individuals. Therefore, the extended families have an interest in the success of the matrimonial alliance. If the newlyweds face an economic crisis, the extended family is there to lend a helping hand. If the young couple needs help coping with children, there is usually an aunt, uncle, or grandparent who will come to their aid. In this way, a lot of pressure on the marriage is relieved, and the husband and wife can concentrate on getting to know each other. Nisha explains the invaluable contribution of the extended family: “My mother-in-law looks after our daughter each afternoon. It frees up some of my time.”

Body Paragraph 3

In addition, love can grow in an arranged marriage. Because the two people who are marrying are not blinded by infatuation or lust, they enter the marriage with their eyes wide open. The future husband and wife discuss personal and career goals, as well as family, religious, and financial values, before agreeing to marry. Knowing each other’s opinions about such crucial issues gives the relationship a good start. It also clears the way for the young couple to get to know each other and appreciate each other, and it is not unusual for love to grow slowly but deeply. Many married couples who have been together for a long time will state enthusiastically that, over the years, they have come to understand, respect, and love their partners.