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QUESTION 1

The author needs help writing a thesis statement to come at the end of this introduction paragraph. Which of these would make the best thesis statement for this essay?

Starting college can be a difficult transition for high school graduates. Life in high school was relatively simple. Parents reminded their kids to get up on time and get to school. Teachers reminded students to turn in their homework and maybe gave extensions if it was forgotten. There was a daily routine that helped everything stay in balance. But in college, much of that disappears and students must find their new normal. Faced with a new level of independence, it can be difficult to juggle classes, studying, work, and a social life without parental supervision or house rules.

- A. Professors in college are unlikely to remind students to turn in assignments the way high school teachers did and extensions for assignments are rare.
- B. Students entering college should plan their class schedule according to when they focus best, either morning classes or afternoon classes when possible.
- C. Students should live at home, if possible, in order to increase their chances of success in college.
- D. To be successful in college, students must learn how to transition to this new world or they will quickly find themselves overwhelmed.

Correct Answer: D

QUESTION 2

HOTSPOT Emily is solving the equation $2(x + 9) = 4(x + 7) + 2$. Her steps are shown below. Part A

Click on the first step in which Emily made an error.

Part B

Click on the solution to Emily's original equation.

Hot Area:

Part A

$$\text{Step 1: } 2(x + 9) = 4(x + 7) + 2$$

$$\text{Step 2: } 2x + 18 = 4x + 28 + 2$$

$$\text{Step 3: } 2x + 18 = 4x + 26$$

$$\text{Step 4: } -8 = 2x$$

$$\text{Step 5: } -4 = x$$

Part B

Correct Answer:

Part A

Step 1: $2(x + 9) = 4(x + 7) + 2$

Step 2: $2x + 18 = 4x + 28 + 2$

Step 3: $2x + 18 = 4x + 26$

Step 4: $-8 = 2x$

Step 5: $-4 = x$

Part B

-10.5

-6

-2

0

2

4.5

8

QUESTION 3

Read the text and answer the question.

Moving to the Back of Beyond

When my parents said the three of us were moving out to California, to a place just north of Los Angeles, my mind immediately went to thoughts of Disneyland and Hollywood, glitz and glamour. I imagined a Rodeo Drive shopping spree to

pick out a bikini for the endless days I would be spending on the beach. However, I'd forgotten about my parents' penchant for the unconventional; they're definitely "the road less traveled" kind of people. Mom had a gopher snake for a pet

when she was younger, and Dad was never happier than when he was climbing near-vertical cliffs that only mountain goats could love. These are not city folk.

They had chosen to buy a 900-square-foot cabin under a 250-year-old oak tree in the high chaparral forest out in the back of beyond – so far away from Los Angeles that you couldn't even see the glow of the lights at night. When I first saw

where we were going to live, I vacillated between feeling terrified and excited. This would be an adventure, for sure. But this was no camping trip where you could go home to civilization after a few days of roughing it; this was home, and roughing it was the new normal.

On move-in day, we drove fifteen miles out from Antelope Valley – where the nearest grocery store was located – on a two-lane road past llamas, cattle, and horses. Up and up we went, until finally we turned down a dirt road and headed into

a canyon full of towering Coulter pines, blue-green sagebrush, and ancient canyon live oaks. I didn't know the names of these plants then, of course; I learned them later. That first day all I saw then was a million shades of green.

We parked under an oak tree that shaded our cabin and a front yard of rock, sand, and sagebrush twice as large as the cabin itself. On the stone staircase that led to the front door, black lizards interrupted their push-ups to twist their heads

and eye us as we passed. Scrub jays squawked and hummingbirds zoomed past the eaves, scolding us with their territorial calls.

No cars roared past. No radios blared from a neighbor's house. There were no neighbors – no human neighbors, anyway.

Our new home consisted of one bedroom, one bathroom, and one big room for everything else. A fireplace in the corner of the big room would be our sole source of heat in the winter. A swamp box (cooler) would blow a breeze over a big

damp pad to keep us cool all summer, or so my father said. But it was early autumn that day, and the temperature was perfect in the shade of the oak tree. Our oak tree, I thought; I was settling in.

Mom wiped a layer of grime off the kitchen counter and muttered about getting a bottle of bleach on our next trip into town. That was the beginning of an important lesson about living in the back of beyond: you don't just zip over to the local

convenience store anytime you need something out here. You have to make a careful list and check it twice so that you don't forget anything, because anywhere is a long way from here.

On my first walk around the property, I saw two horned toads, a red-tailed hawk, and some deer tracks. I wondered what else I might find deeper and higher in the canyon. Dad told me the real estate agent had mentioned that coyotes,

bobcats, mountain lions, rattlesnakes, and even bears roamed these hills. To my surprise, I found I couldn't wait to see them. All of them. I felt my feet taking root in the earth, claiming this place as home.

With no street lamps timed to turn on at sunset, when night came it was darker than anything I had ever experienced. Mom and I went out to look at the stars while Dad tried to unplug the ancient toilet. In the city, or even in the suburbs where

I had lived before, you could see only the brightest stars in the sky. But out here, it was like being in a planetarium, except there were no labels typed onto our sky. The sheer number and spread of stars was awe-inspiring.

That first night, we slept on air mattresses on the living room floor because the movers had not yet arrived. There were no curtains on the windows, so when the moon rose, it shone in as if moonbeams were an integral part of the cabin.

Eventually, I moved into the bedroom and Mom and Dad got a foldout bed for the living room. Over the next few months, I began to count the passage of time in full moons rather than by the pages of a calendar, and for the first time I really

noticed the days growing shorter in winter and longer in summer.

It's hard to believe, but we've been here for six years now. I've been going to school in the valley, but I feel most at home up here with my wild fellow canyon dwellers. Soon, I will have to leave home for college, and I'm a little afraid of the

culture shock I'm sure I will feel when I move back to civilization. Soon I'll be walking on pavement and well-mowed grass again, rooming with strangers, and eating meals in a cafeteria crowded with more people than live within twenty miles

of this house. But I know I will come back. The back of beyond is home now.

1. chaparral: a dense thicket of shrubs and small trees

The following question is divided into two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A

Which statement best expresses the theme of the text?

- A. Home may be found in an expected place.
- B. Nature is the best educator of young children.
- C. Turning your back on civilization is the only way to live.
- D. You must leave your past behind in order to find yourself.

Correct Answer: A

QUESTION 4

Choose an expression equivalent to $\sqrt{b^5}$.

- A. $2\sqrt{5b}$
- B. $5\sqrt{b}$
- C. $5b^2$
- D. $b\frac{5}{2}$

- A. Option A
- B. Option B
- C. Option C
- D. Option D

Correct Answer: D

QUESTION 5

A drug company is evaluating a new method to measure levels of sugar in blood samples. The test is run hundreds of times on samples where the true level of sugar is already known. No test will be perfectly accurate all of the time, but it is

important that the result of any test be as close to the correct value as possible.

Which of these statistical measures will be most helpful in determining if the testing method in the attached description meets this condition?

1.

the mode of the test results

2.

the mean of the test results

3.

the minimum and maximum values of the test results

4.

the standard deviation of the test results

A. 3 and 4

B. 1 and 2

C. 3 only

D. 2 only

Correct Answer: A

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