

## Possible Answers for *Successful College Writing, Sixth Edition* – Chapter 21

### Ex 21.1

1. *Limited topics*: The lottery in your home state; analysis of how the lottery is promoted in one state. *Background*: How many states have lotteries; how much money is raised; more objections to state lotteries.
2. *Limited topics*: Privacy in the workplace or on the Internet; security of Internet transactions and accounts; corporate access to personal information without the individual's knowledge. *Background*: Definitions of terms; examples of privacy violations; relevant court cases.
3. *Limited topics*: A specific speech code on a specific campus; an incident or series of incidents that might justify speech codes. *Background*: Reasons for speech codes; purposes of typical speech codes; number of campuses that have enacted speech codes.
4. *Limited topics*: Controversy over displaying a crèche on public property at Christmas; attempts to display symbols meaningful to different religions. *Background*: Interpretations of what constitutes a religious symbol; relevant U.S. Supreme Court rulings.
5. *Limited topics*: Mandatory drug testing for members of particular professions (hospital workers, train engineers, police officers); mandatory testing of athletes for steroids; mandatory testing for a specific drug. *Background*: Laws and company policies mandating drug testing; effects of drugs on job performance; relevant constitutional issues.

### Ex 21.2

1. (a) Many parents approve of government control of pornography on the Internet, but such controls may violate the First Amendment right to free speech. (b) Pornography is so readily available to children on the Internet that the government must pass legislation to control it.
2. (a) Limiting immigration may open up more jobs for unemployed citizens. (b) While the government needs to control immigration, controls should be flexible so that people who can make valuable contributions can work legally.
3. (a) Strict controls on campaign spending would very likely decrease the number of political advertisements. (b) Laws limiting the amount of money a politician can raise and spend are a violation of First Amendment rights, and voters should tell their congressional representatives not to enact such laws.
4. (a) Restricting testing of beauty products on animals might be effective in ensuring cosmetic safety while minimizing harm to laboratory animals. (b) Testing of beauty products on animals is not ethically justifiable, so consumers should boycott companies that do so.
5. (a) Because they promote exercise and a competitive spirit, sports are probably the best activities children can engage in. (b) Sports get inactive children away from their electronic devices and into the fresh air; therefore, parents should encourage their children to engage in competitive sports.

### Ex 21.3

1. (a) Urge readers to call school boards to insist on sex education classes. (b) Contrast statistics on teen pregnancy in schools with sex ed classes versus those in schools without such classes; cite expert opinion in favor of sex ed; narrate testimonials from teens who have benefited from sex ed classes. (c) Appeal to the common desire to protect teens but

argue that they should be protected from pregnancy and sexual diseases, not from information; cite facts and statistics.

2. (a) Urge readers to write to companies that advertise during shows that portray violence unrealistically, calling for action. (b) Present examples of the toll real violence takes on victims and their families; contrast with unrealistic examples from TV shows; cite examples of “copycat” crimes. (c) Establish a common ground — the desire to reduce violent crime; provide the same examples as for *b*, as well as the results of studies that show an increase in violence correlated with increased television viewing.

3. (a) Provide advice for reducing the hours that some children spend on computers and for increasing their social activities. (b) Provide expert testimony on and examples of children who suffer negative consequences from their excessive involvement with computers. (c) Concede that children need to be knowledgeable about using computers but argue that they need social skills as well.

#### **Ex 21.4**

1. Possible opposing arguments:

- Sex education exposes children to information that parents may want to withhold until the children are older. *Response:* Accommodate by proposing parental waivers or refute by arguing that adolescents need to be informed about sex.
- Sex education sends the message that sex is acceptable behavior for teens. *Response:* Acknowledge the position or accommodate it by noting that most teens experiment with sex and that participation in the sex ed program could help protect them against disease and pregnancy.

2. Possible opposing arguments:

- Portraying violence more realistically on television will desensitize viewers, not deter them. *Response:* Refute by noting that portraying the effects of violence has deterred crime and changed people’s minds, citing such examples as the televised images of the Vietnam War and the civil rights movement.
- Violent images have no effect on people who commit violent crimes. *Response:* Accommodate by noting that while realistic portrayals will have no effect on hardened criminals, they may keep some people from becoming criminals, or refute by citing studies that show a high crime rate among habitual viewers of crime shows

#### **Ex 21.5**

Answers will vary.

#### **“Pull the Plug on Explicit Lyrics,” James Sturm**

##### **Analyzing the Writer’s Technique**

1. Sturm’s thesis statement clearly states his position. It suggests that Sturm will present negative effects and reasons as support. The thesis statement does not mention lack of government regulation or critiques of Sturm’s position.

2. Sturm might have offered statistics, quotations by experts on the issue, or comparisons with other types of lyrics.

3. Although he offers examples of explicit lyrics in paragraph 4, Sturm does not offer a precise definition of *explicit lyrics*. Readers may need a more precise definition in order to agree or disagree with Sturm’s position.

### **Thinking Critically about Argument**

1. Sturm regards explicit lyrics as harmful to children, an attitude revealed in these phrases: “hateful content” (para. 3), “repulsive ideas” (4), “fuels negative and harmful thoughts” (5).
2. Sturm uses both fact and opinion, but the essay relies heavily on opinion. Facts appear in paragraph 2, while opinions are in paragraphs 3 through 5.
3. Sturm’s audience is the general public, possibly parents of children under age sixteen. The formality of his language and his dependence on a Parental Advisory label are clues.
4. “Explicit music” is a euphemism for music with lyrics about sex or violence. 5. Sturm appeals to the need to protect innocent children and to promote the values of social constraint.
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### **Responding to the Reading**

Answers will vary.