

**Strategic Thinking:**

1. Good writers use a variety of sentence structures (simple and complex sentences).
2. Too many simple sentences are choppy and boring. Simple sentences can often be consolidated.
3. Too many complex sentences can be confusing. Confusing sentences need clarified.
4. Sentences that don't support the topic should be deleted.
5. Eliminate the wrong or goofy answers before you select the correct answer.

The following is a rough draft of a student's report. It contains errors.

Uncle Sam

(1) In 1961, Congress passed a resolution recognizing Uncle Sam as a national symbol. (2) Uncle Sam has become a famous image. (3) His image is that of a tall, thin man with white hair and a beard. (4) He wears an eccentric costume consisting of a top hat decorated with stars, trousers with red and white stripes, a long blue coat, and a vest. (5) President Abraham Lincoln frequently wore top hats. (6) Uncle Sam symbolizes the United States of America.

(7) How did this figure come to stand for the United States? (8) During the War of 1812, Sam Wilson of Troy, New York, supplied barrels of meat to the U.S. Army. (9) Each barrel was stamped with the letters "U.S." for United States, but his workers joked that the initials stood for "Uncle Sam" Wilson. (10) The trend caught on. (11) Soon anything marked "U.S." people said was belonging to Uncle Sam.

(12) Political cartoonists adopted the idea. (13) The cartoonists sketched Uncle Sam as a character representing the United States. (14) At first, he was a clean-shaven gentleman in a black tailcoat. (15) Later, after the Civil War, cartoonist Thomas Nast illustrated a bearded Uncle Sam in a flashy red, white and blue costume.



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1 How can sentence 2 and sentence 3 best be combined?

- (A) Uncle Sam has become a famous image, and his image is that of a tall, thin man with white hair and a beard.
- (B) Uncle Sam has become a famous image, with his image being that of a tall, thin man with white hair and a beard.
- (C) Uncle Sam has become the famous image of a tall, thin man with white hair and a beard.
- (D) Uncle Sam has become a famous image that of a tall, thin man with white hair and a beard.

2 What is the best way to write sentence 11?

- (A) Anything marked "U.S." people said was soon belonging to Uncle Sam.
- (B) Soon anything marked "U.S." was said to belong to Uncle Sam.
- (C) Anything marked "U.S." soon people said was belonging to Uncle Sam.
- (D) Soon anything marked "U.S." was belonging to Uncle Sam.



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3

Read these sentences from the student's report.

Political cartoonists adopted the idea. The cartoonists sketched Uncle Sam as a character representing the United States.

Which of these is the best way to combine these sentences?

- (A) Adopting the idea and political cartoonists sketched Uncle Sam as a character representing the United States.
- (B) Political cartoonists adopted the idea which they sketched Uncle Sam as a character representing the United States.
- (C) Political cartoonists adopting the idea and they sketched Uncle Sam as a character representing the United States.
- (D) Political cartoonists adopted the idea and sketched Uncle Sam as a character representing the United States.

4

Which sentence in the passage should the student delete?

- (A) Uncle Sam has become a famous image.
- (B) How did this figure come to stand for the United States?
- (C) President Abraham Lincoln frequently wore top hats.
- (D) At first, he was a clean-shaven gentleman in a black tailcoat.



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Which sentence should the student add to the end of the report?

- (A) That image caught on, and by the early 1900's that depiction of Uncle Sam was familiar around the world.
- (B) Uncle Sam's costume may have been inspired by a circus clown who wore a red, white, and blue suit and a top hat.
- (C) Abraham Lincoln was the Republican President during the Civil War.
- (D) Most people don't know whatever became of Sam Wilson of Troy, New York.



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1	C
2	B
3	D
4	C
5	A

SAMPLE