TOPIC SENTENCES AND CONCLUDING SENTENCES

A. Choose the best topic sentence for the following paragraphs.

1.) _____ . First of all, we need money to repair old roads and build new roads. We also need more to pay teachers' salaries and to pay for services such as trash collection. Finally, more tax money is needed to give financial help to the poor citizens of the city. It is clear that the city will have serious problems if funds for these problems cannot be found soon.

a) Municipal taxes need to raised.

b) City taxes are too high.

c) City taxes pay for new roads.

d) Roads, teachers' salaries and trash collection all require money to address.

2.) _____ . For example, a person can have breakfast in New York, board an airplane, and have dinner in Paris. A businesswoman in London can instantly place an order with a factory in Hong Kong by sending a fax. Furthermore, a schoolboy in Tokyo can turn on a TV and watch a baseball game being played in Los Angeles.

a) Airplanes have changed our lives.

b) Advances in technology have made the world seem smaller.

c) The fax machine was an important invention.

d) Airplanes and television have caused significant changes in the way we live today.

3.) _____ . One thing you must consider is the quality of the university's educational program. You also need to think about the school's size and location. Finally, you must be sure to consider the university's tuition to make sure you can afford to go to school there.

a) It is expensive to attend a university in the United States.

b) There are several factors to consider when you choose a university to attend.

c) You should consider getting a good education.

d) There are various considerations one has to keep in mind when deciding whether to attend university in the United States.

B. Concluding sentences. Which sentences would make the best addition to the end of these paragraphs?

1. Humans have known that earthworms have been vital to enriching Earth's rich soil all throughout history. Egyptian Queen Cleopatra called earthworms sacred. The Greek philosopher Aristotle said

earthworms were the intestines" of the soil. In 1881 Charles Darwin stated, "It may be doubted whether there are many other creatures which have played so important a part in the history of the world."

a) Could Earth support mankind without the earthworm?

b) People throughout history have understood that earthworms are extremely important.

c) Charles Darwin was a scientist.

d) Aristotle was a Greek philosopher and scientist.

2. Earthworms may be divided into three categories. The Endogeic or soil dwellers live in the top foot of soil. The Epigeic or litter dwellers live on the decomposing plant material in wooded area. The third type is the Anecic or the deep burrowers. The Anecic worm lives several feet under the ground. They drag organic matter from the surface to their burrows.

a) These three types of worms have been given Greek names meaning "up from the earth", "within the earth", and "upon the earth".

b) Earthworms live anywhere the climate is not too hot or too cold, or too wet or too dry.

c) Earthworms vary greatly in size.

d) During cold months worms become dormant or move to warmer locations such as the compost pile.

3. Have you ever bitten into a nice juicy apple only to find that a worm had already been there? The apple worm is really the caterpillar of the codling moth. The young hatch from eggs the size of pin heads and feast on apples for about a month. When the caterpillar is about a half-inch long it leaves the apple and spins a cocoon. After a month the adult moth emerges.

a) Apples are an extremely healthy food to eat.

b) Moths and butterflies are different in several ways.

c) Sometimes three generations of the codling moths may live in the orchard in just a year.

d) The codling moth is a pesky varmint.