25. B

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Within the context of the sentence, them has no clear antecedent. However, it is clear from the first sentence that them refers to liberal arts, so B is correct.

26. D

Since the second paragraph refutes the idea stated in the first paragraph, a sentence that sets up this contrast, as D does, best links the two paragraphs. A, B, and E elaborate on why liberal arts are irrelevant and therefore do not logically lead to the second paragraph, which debunks this notion. C comes out of nowhere: The passage concerns the value of studying liberal arts, not the writer's struggles with schoolwork.

27. C

Choice C provides a smooth and effective variation in sentence structure by transforming the second sentence into a clause modifying the first sentence. Choice A incorrectly strings two clauses together with a comma. B's use of although is illogical. D is unnecessarily wordy and contains an error in tense. E is awkwardly worded and is incorrect in the context of the paragraph because it changes the meaning of the original sentence.

28. E

In the second paragraph, the writer recounts a personal anecdote that refutes the first paragraph's claim that studying liberal arts is a waste of time. She includes many specific details and creates suspense as she tells the story ("... it was time for the tie-breaker question. The host pulled the card from the envelope."). She does not, however, list jobs that require knowledge of liberal arts, so E is correct.

29. C

In sentence 5, the shift to the passive voice makes it sound as if it was the supervisors whose bathroom visits were restricted. Only C fixes this error. In addition to the other choices' incorrect use of the passive voice, B is inconsistent in tense, D is unnecessarily wordy and needlessly substitutes *given permission* for *allowed*, and E splits an infinitive.

30. B

From the context, it is clear that the author means that the factories belong to the retail chain, but the use of the word their incorrectly conveys the idea that they belong to the consumers. Substituting its for their fixes this problem.

31. C

As written, the sentence incorrectly connects two clauses with a comma and is inconsistent in tense; it also contains a misplaced modifier (which appears to refer to the chain when it should refer to the letter) and an unnecessary shift to the passive voice (he was urged). C fixes these errors. B is incorrect in context; the use of the past progressive (were agreeing) changes the meaning of the sentence. D, too, changes the meaning: Consumers agreed to stop patronizing the store, not to write letters to the president. E likewise changes the original meaning and is repetitive and awkward.

32. E

Choice E works well as a concluding sentence because it provides a nice summary of the author's main point and ties the second and third paragraphs together with the reference to "a bunch of teenagers." Choice A does not logically follow from the essay; it is never stated whether consumers were willing to pay more. B comes out of left field, and choices C and D are just wrong: the students did devise a plan of action (boycotting) and they did listen to the factory worker.