

## 8. Author's Point of View

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*If you read carefully, you can usually discover the author's point of view. It will often be stated clearly. Or else the language the author uses, the examples given, and the way the selection is put together will give you a good idea of where the author stands. And why is this important? Because knowing the author's point of view is often helpful in understanding many things about the selection.*

In the following example decide what the author feels about dogs.

### ◆ Example 1

Dogs have been man's best friend since prehistoric days. They have hunted with people all over the world, sometimes tracking lions, or retrieving birds, or cornering wild boars, or chasing foxes. When herdsmen herd their cows and sheep, dogs keep the animals in place. Dogs have led the blind, tracked down lost people, and pulled sleds in the Arctic.

1. How does the author feel about dogs?
  - A He is prejudiced against them.
  - B He thinks they have many more uses now than they used to.
  - C He thinks they do silly things.
  - D He thinks our lives would be poorer without them.

The correct choice is **D**. The author is clearly an admirer of dogs.

Read the next example. It describes the type of surroundings the author is glad to have found.

## ◆ Example 2

Night was falling. The green leaves, caught by the late afternoon breeze, moved gently, reflecting the last rays of the sun. The forest was peaceful. All of the animals who make the forest a busy and bothersome place were now quiet. The usually active birds no longer chattered back and forth. The annoying squirrels who dig and hunt for nuts were finally resting. Now, at last, I could think in peace.

2. The author seems to feel that
  - A birds can make too much noise.
  - B birds are beautiful.
  - C birds should be protected.
  - D bird songs make life pleasant.

## *Selections for Practice*

### ■ Selection 1

Even though the Great United Supermarket employs over 200 people, there is no reason that it should remain open. Some people may argue that it offers a wide selection of food at low prices. But Great United sells tainted food that makes people ill. Health inspectors have issued complaints about it, and our local hospital is concerned. More than a dozen patients have been admitted for care after eating food purchased in this supermarket. One has died so far. We must close this supermarket of death. And until it is closed, no one should buy anything there.

1. The writer seems to feel that the key issue to consider about the Great United Supermarket is the fact that
  - A it has low prices.
  - B it offers a wide selection of food.
  - C it sells tainted food.
  - D 200 people work there.

## ■ Selection 2

Seven hundred years ago, men and women did not bathe or shower very often. Even among the court nobles, the cleanest people of the time, it was common to go for months at a time without taking a bath. Some people even thought baths were dangerous to health. People at that time would use perfumes to hide their body odor, since they didn't bathe and rarely changed their clothes.

Modern times have gone very far in the opposite direction—perhaps a bit too far. People today feel they must shower at least once, and sometimes twice or even three times, a day. Most apply massive amounts of deodorants. Even though overbathing tends to dry the skin, no one seems to care. Excessive amounts of deodorant can cause allergic reactions, and soap applied to the body while bathing can breed bacteria if not rinsed thoroughly. We are a people determined to be clean at any price, or so it seems.

2. The writer would probably agree that
- A ancient peoples were clean enough.
  - B bathing is dangerous.
  - C bathing once a day is better than bathing several times a day.
  - D we need to do more to get rid of our body odors.

## ■ Selection 3

The development of the microscope has greatly improved man's knowledge of the world of tiny animals, bacteria, and viruses. The microscope uses a series of glass lenses to magnify an object. Since its invention many diseases have been conquered. With the help of a microscope, scientists can track down organisms that cause various illnesses and can also check human tissue sections to see if they are healthy. Besides medical uses, the microscope is also important as a tool in industry. Microscopes are used to check for food spoilage and drug contamination. Microscopes can even be used to determine the physical structure of metal.

3. The author feels that
- A the microscope has done as much harm as good.
  - B the microscope was useful, but is no longer important in modern life.
  - C the microscope has been of minor use to a few doctors.
  - D the microscope has been very important in medicine and in other applications.