

2 Practice the Skill

By practicing the skill of making generalizations, you will improve your study and text-taking abilities, especially as they relate to the GED® Reasoning Through Language Arts Test. Read the passage below. Then answer the question that follows.

MOVING BACK HOME

a Generalizations often contain the words **all**, **few**, **everyone**, **more**, or **usually**. Here the author generalizes about what **more** adult children are doing.

b The second paragraph contains a hypothesis about people in their 20s.

A recent survey shows that more adult children are returning home to live with their parents. This pattern has emerged in the past (almost always associated with economic downturns) and this time is no different. As the economy struggles, it becomes more difficult for young people to gain their independence.

Psychologist Jeffrey Arnett suggests that there is a new age classification, emerging adults, which bridges the gap between adolescence and adulthood. According to his theory, people in their 20s go through a time of development that's distinct from other stages of adulthood, and this developmental period explains some of the reluctance of adult children to leave the nest for good.

If this theory is true, though, why should the number of "boomerang" children increase during times of economic hardship? It seems more likely that young people are experiencing failure to launch because of the financial difficulties of living alone during a recession. It's certainly not an easy task. With fewer jobs to choose from and more competition to fill those slots, high school and college graduates have a harder time finding meaningful employment. ...

From *Forbes's* article FAILURE TO LAUNCH: ADULT CHILDREN MOVING BACK HOME by Alan Dunn, © 2012

MAKING ASSUMPTIONS

Do not assume that an author's generalizations are always true. Some may be valid, but others may not be. A valid generalization must be supported by facts and details.

1. What generalization does the author make about "boomerang" children? The author says that
 - A. they lack the motivation to accept adult responsibilities.
 - B. the number of children living at home decreases during a recession.
 - C. the reason for the increase in adult children living at home is a reluctance to leave the nest.
 - D. more adult children return home to live with their parents when the economy is bad.

3 Apply the Skill

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage, read each question, and choose the **best** answer.

FOOD DESERTS

- 1 This is the real world of eating and nutrition in the rural United States. Forget plucking an apple from a tree, or an egg from under a chicken. "The stereotype is everyone in rural America lives on a farm, which is far from the truth," says Jim Weill, president of the nonprofit Food Research and Action Center (FRAC). New research from the University of South Carolina's Arnold School of Public Health shows just how unhealthy the country life can be. The study, which examined food-shopping options in Orangeburg County (1,106 square miles, population 91,500), found a dearth [lack] of supermarkets and grocery stores. Of the 77 stores that sold food in Orangeburg County in 2004, when the study was done, 57—nearly 75 percent—were convenience stores. Grocery stores, which stock far more fruits and vegetables than convenience stores, are often too far away, says University of South Carolina epidemiologist Angela Liese, lead author of the study, which appeared in last month's *Journal of the American Dietetic Association*. "Oftentimes a nutritionist will just say, 'Buy more fruits and vegetables,' when, in fact, the buying part is not simple."
- 2 Like other rural areas (and some inner-city ones), Orangeburg County is an isolated "food desert." "You are pretty much at the mercy of what's in your neighborhood," says Adam Drewnowski, director of the center for obesity research at the University of Washington. Although only 28 percent of all the stores in Orangeburg County carried any of the fruits and vegetables—apples, cucumbers, oranges, tomatoes—that were part of the survey, Liese and her colleagues found plenty of healthy foods in the county's 20 supermarkets and grocery stores. The situation in the convenience stores was decidedly grimmer.

From *Newsweek's* article JUNK FOOD COUNTY by Karen Springen,
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2. Which generalization about rural America does the author claim is an untrue stereotype?
- A. Rural America has more places to buy food than urban areas have.
 - B. All people living in rural America live on farms.
 - C. People on farms have apple trees.
 - D. People living in rural America are poor.
3. Which generalization does the author make about supermarkets and grocery stores?
- A. They stock more fruits and vegetables than convenience stores do.
 - B. They are more common in rural areas of the United States than elsewhere.
 - C. Rural supermarkets and grocery stores stock fewer fruits and vegetables than urban stores do.
 - D. They are similar to convenience stores in rural areas of the United States.
4. Which fact does the author use to support the generalization that rural areas like Orangeburg County are **food deserts**?
- A. People are limited to the foods and stores available in their neighborhoods.
 - B. People's food choices are limited to what they can grow.
 - C. People often have to travel great distances to buy any kind of food.
 - D. People cannot find food of any kind in their neighborhoods.
5. On the basis of this passage, which is the **most** logical hypothesis to make about food stores in **suburban** areas?
- A. Suburban supermarkets generally stock healthier food than rural supermarkets do.
 - B. Convenience stores are less likely to sell food because there are more neighborhood grocery stores.
 - C. There are more convenience stores in suburban areas than in rural areas.
 - D. Suburban areas have more food stores that stock fruits and vegetables than rural areas have.