AP Style Practice Exercise #5

A. Cross out the errors in mechanics and style in the sentences below and write your correction above them. Selected sentences have errors in boldface. Indicate page references in the AP Stylebook, where appropriate. DUE AT THE START OF CLASS ON WEDNESDAY.

1. The board voted three to two to have a public hearing about banning some books from the library.

2. The Pioneer City commission will discuss an ordinance to ban nudity from bars or restaurants that serve alcohol.

3. Mike Widgen, City Manager, said that the proposed law would only effect businesses that serve liquor.

4. The first amendment to the constitution guaranties the right of freedom of expression, so the proposed ordinance can not be applied to places that don’t serve alcohol, said the county’s Chief deputy counselor. (Indirect quote. It does not need quotation marks)

5. Vice mayor Charles Shorter was so impressed by the pig that he said he might consider getting one himself.

6. The issue of banning pigs was discussed by the Pioneer City town council.

7. One woman brought her potbellied pig to city hall when the council debated the ordinance.

8. George Johnson had a guaranteed contract for $3,100,000 dollars.

9. Burl Osborne is very concerned about preserving the Constitutional guarantees of free speech.

10. Osborne said that many colleges had adopted speech codes in the 1990’s.
B. For the selection below, identify the sentence-skills mistakes at the underlined spots. Choose the letter that describes the error and write it in the space provided beneath the paragraph. Some mistakes may appear more than once. For any error you don't understand, refer to Working With Words, the grammar section of the AP Stylebook or any Grammar Review handouts for assistance. (1 point each)

Cars can destroy your ego. First of all the kind of car you drive can make you feel like a second-class citizen. If you can't afford a new, expensive car, and are forced to drive an old clunker, you'll be the object of pitying stares and nasty sneers. Drivers of newer-model cars just don't appreciate it when a '68 buick with terminal body rust lurches into the next parking slot. You may even find that drivers go out of their way not to park near you. Breakdowns, too, can damage your self-respect. You may be an assistant bank manager or a job foreman, you'll still feel like two cents when your sitting on the side of the road. As the other cars whiz past, you'll stare helplessly at your cars open hood or steaming radiator. In cases like this, you may even be turned into that lowest of creatures, the pedestrian. Shuffling humbly along the highway to the nearest pay phone, your car has delivered another staggering blow to your self-esteem.

1. __________
2. __________
3. __________
4. __________
5. __________
6. __________
7. __________
8. __________
9. __________
10. __________