

PASSAGE I

The Lincoln Lawyer

Many have lived interesting lives, and perhaps none more so than the 16th **1** President of the United States: Abraham Lincoln. The biography **2** of the life of Abraham Lincoln is, indeed, a story of endurance, dedication, and **3** working hard. Raised by a poor family in rural Illinois, **4** many thought that Abraham Lincoln stood little chance at making much of an impact on the world. Despite the adversity he faced as a child, Lincoln overcame many obstacles and obtained the education necessary for greatness **5** Indeed, Lincoln succeeded in not only going to law school, but also in building a successful law practice.

1

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) President of the United States; Abraham Lincoln.
- C) President of the United States. Abraham Lincoln.
- D) President of the United States Abraham Lincoln.

2

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) of the lifestyle
- C) of the livelihood
- D) DELETE the underlined portion

3

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) hard working.
- C) hard work.
- D) laborious.

4

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) many think that Abraham Lincoln
- C) Abraham Lincoln was widely believed to have
- D) a lot of people thought Lincoln

5

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) However,
- C) On the contrary,
- D) Regardless,

As an attorney, Lincoln's case load **6** as a lawyer dealt mostly with debt issues, but he did represent clients on a range of other issues as well. **7** These cases, dealing with matters of contracts, criminal defense, and even real estate, were his focus throughout his legal career. Some scholars, both past and present, argue Lincoln handled so many debt cases due to the poverty he faced as a child; others assert that his firm simply handled the work that came **8** their way.

While it is hard to dispute the latter argument, there may be some merit to the childhood argument as well. It is widely known that Lincoln's father, Thomas, largely shaped young Abraham's beliefs (he was strongly against slavery), but what is less well known is that Thomas Lincoln was riddled with debt. In fact, many think the Lincolns moved from Kentucky to Illinois to avoid debt collectors.

Regardless of the reasons for assuming the cases that he did, Lincoln worked over 5,000 cases and labored tirelessly to represent his **9** client's interests. The huge

6

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) when he was a lawyer
- C) in being a lawyer
- D) DELETE the underlined portion

7

At this point, the writer is thinking about adding the following true statement:

The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act was passed on September 20, 1977, and since then has helped protect millions of Americans from aggressive debt collectors.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- A) Yes, because it adds relevant details to the debt-related laws that Lincoln addressed as a lawyer.
- B) Yes, because it helps the reader better understand debt law in the United States.
- C) No, because it is inconsistent with the tone and style of the essay.
- D) No, because it blurs the focus of the essay.

8

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) its'
- C) its
- D) it's

9

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) clients' interest's
- C) clients' interests
- D) clients interests'

number of cases that he and his partners argued before local, state, and federal courts is a testament to the devotion these men felt towards their work.

Lincoln and his partners, many of **10** which were of modest means as he was, usually charged between \$5 and \$20 for their legal fees. The reasonable fees combined with the debt-related nature of most cases suggest that these men of modest means aimed to help others facing financial hardship as a point of principal as much as one of business model. Through choosing to defend debtors at reasonable rates, Lincoln's compassion towards others makes itself apparent. This same compassion towards others drove not only his law practice, but arguably many of the policies he crafted as President.

[1] This interest has now led to researchers and scholars alike reviewing the cases Lincoln argued.

[2] Many today only think of Abraham Lincoln as being the 16th President of the United States, but, like any President, he simply did not appear from nowhere. [3] Lincoln held a job for years prior to taking the oath of office, and the accomplishments he had in office further add to the interest in his legal career. [4] Their hope is to find clues that, in hindsight, foretell Lincoln's positions and actions while in The Oval Office. **11**

10

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) whom
- C) who
- D) that

11

To make this paragraph most logical, sentence 1 should be placed

- A) where it is now.
- B) after sentence 2.
- C) after sentence 3.
- D) after sentence 4.