**Practice I:** Read the paragraphs, and then identify each sentence as either a main idea, a major detail, or a minor detail sentence.

Single parents have to overcome many obstacles to return to school. If the child is very young, finding quality babysitting can be difficult. Many babysitters are unreliable and that can mean that the parent has to miss many classes, which can hurt their grades. It is also hard to find enough time to study. Children require a lot of attention and are also noisy, and that can interfere with a parent being able to complete their homework. Finally, raising children is expensive. Many single parents discover that they can’t meet the costs of both raising children and paying for tuition, books and fees.

Sentence #1: (Main)

Sentence #2: (Major)

Sentence #3: (Minor)

Sentence #4: (Major)

Sentence #5: (Minor)

Sentence #6: (Major)

Sentence #7: (Minor)

My grandmother turned 70 last year and celebrated by going skydiving. She said she always wanted to try and figured it was now or never. Many people think that when you get older you can no longer do fun things, but this is not true. The senior center in town offers dance lessons and also takes groups to the art museum. The classes are always full because so many people want to try new things. Towns are even developing senior living communities around activities such as golf and tennis. Those communities are very popular because people like to live with others who share their interests.

Sentence #1: (Major)

Sentence #2: (Minor)

Sentence #3: (Main)

Sentence #4: (Major)

Sentence #5: (Minor)

Sentence #6: (Major)

Sentence #7: (Minor)

**Practice II:** Below you will find several main idea sentences. Provide appropriate supporting sentences following the pattern of Major-Minor-Major-Minor.

1. It is not a good idea to watch a lot of television.

Major:

Minor:

Major:

Minor:

2. Coaches have good reasons to be firm with the players on their team.

Major:

Minor:

Major:

Minor:

3. Many people believe it is a bad idea to spank children.

Major:

Minor:

Major:

Minor:

4. There are several steps I can take to be successful in college.

Major:

Minor:

Major:

Minor: