Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I can analyze multiple accounts of the same topic, noting similarities or

 differences in point of view.

**Now That a Penny Isn’t Worth Much, Is It Time to Make It Worth 5 Cents?**

Our government may have lost as much as $40 million coining pennies and nickels last year. The metal in them — the zinc, copper and nickel — has soared in value in the last few years, making the coins more valuable as metals, than they are as money.

So what to do?

Some say the penny should be abolished or gotten rid of for good. Others say the government should make a penny be worth 5 cents, the same as a nickel. Pennies would then cost a little over 1 cent to make and would be worth a nickel. The government would be making a profit.

So, pull out those old sofa cushions and crack open those piggy banks ladies and gentlemen. Start looking for the shiny face of Honest Abe. All that glitters may not be gold, or even nickel, but it may be worth 5 cents.

**Letter to the Editor**

Dear Editor,

 I read your article in last Sunday’s *Gazette* titled “Now That a Penny Isn’t Worth Much, Is It Time to Make It Worth 5 Cents?” I, too, believe that we should do away with pennies. Many people do not like to carry pennies because they weigh down pockets or purses. Many families have jars full of pennies sitting around. They are worth so little that most people will not stop to pick one up. The U.S. Mint has to keep making pennies because so many people do not spend them.

 If we eliminated the penny, or made it worth five cents, our money system would need to change. Merchants would have to set prices differently, or prices would need to be rounded to the nearest nickel. But we would not be the only country to try this. Other countries have also changed their money systems. British have eliminated their farthing, which was much like our penny. And our own country has made similar changes in the past. In the 1800s, our government issued half-cent, two-cent, and three-cent coins.

 As our lifestyles change and improve, our money system could stand some improvement, too.

Sincerely,

Albert Finestine

**Each account above discusses some solutions to the rising cost of making a penny. Compare and contrast the details presented about this topic and the authors’ point of view.**

