Wouldn’t it be cool to be an engine technician in the pit area, replacing a blown-out engine just before the final qualifying race? How would it feel to be in the driver’s seat, watching the lights blink down the tree as you’re about to hit the pedal and top your best speed of 330 mph?

Imagine yourself at the race track. It’s time for the race to begin. You find yourself in one of the settings below. Read the four scenarios, select the one that is most exciting to you, and then write a one-page essay about what it would be like to be there.

**Scenario 1:** You’ve always loved tinkering with machines. Now you’ve become the crew chief for Tony Schumacher’s U.S. Army Top Fuel dragster and you’ve inspected his car one last time before the final race of the day. You know that if your crew has done its job properly, the car could hit speeds over 330 mph. Describe the thoughts that go through your mind as you await the start of the race, less than one minute away.

**Scenario 2:** You were the only student in elementary school to meet the quota every time in the magazine drive. You were always the top seller, winning all the cool prizes while raising money for your school. Now, as the marketing director for the National Hot Rod Association, you’ve been asked by the track’s owner to develop a special promotion that will attract more families to the next drag racing event. Your budget is modest, but you’ve got an idea. Describe what will be given to the first 2,000 fans entering the racetrack and why your promotion will be a success?

**Scenario 3:** You had your start in middle school when you read the daily announcements over the school intercom. Before long you started to improvise, adding personal comments that caught the ears and interest of your classmates. These days you’re using your oratorical skills to announce drag races at trackside. Describe a race between two top contenders, from the tension-filled start to the exciting finish seconds later.

**Scenario 4:** You started taking pictures with a pocket-size camera as soon as you could wrap your fingers around it. Now that you are a chief photographer for the National Hot Rod Association, it’s your job to capture the excitement, energy, and hard work involved in the world of drag racing. You’ve got a press pass that allows you unlimited access to events. Describe all the places you would go, who and what you would photograph and where you would position yourself when the races begin.