

Educational Reflection Borger

Prompt: Write a 500-750 word essay reflecting on three issues students must deal with in school based on the articles you've read and summarized.

Discussion of the prompt: Using the articles for support, argue which factors affect students the most. Your essay will have an introduction, 3 body paragraphs, and a conclusion. Each body paragraph should examine one main point from the articles. Use the outline below as a guide.

Introduction:

- Open with an **attention getter**: quote, fact, question, etc.
- Give an overview of the issues facing teens in school today.
- Funnel to a **thesis statement**: the final sentence in your introduction that states what your three main points are going to be.

Body:

- Open with a **topic sentence**: a sentence which previews the single point of this paragraph. **Use the descriptive summaries from the past few weeks.**
- Give an overview of the point—this is where your **informative summaries** come in. You can simply use your summary paragraphs at the beginning of your paragraph.
- Complete the paragraph with your opinion; why do you think this is a major issue? Do you see this issue affecting yourself or peers? Why is this factor one of your top three? This is where you get to agree / disagree / state your opinion / argue with the articles.
- Transition into the next point.

Conclusion:

- Summarize what your main points are (remember, “I’m stupid” and I need you to remind me what I’ve just read). **DO NOT REPEAT YOUR INTRODUCTION WORD FOR WORD.**
- Include an **exigency**: this is a final statement that tells me what I’ve learned from reading your essay (consider this the “Jerry Springer Final Thought”).

Grading Criteria:

- Does your essay include all of the major components listed above?
- Did you rewrite / add to your original summaries or did you just recopy them word for word even if you received a weak grade?
- Did you include your original summaries and articles with your final?
- Did you double-space, type / write in ink, follow MLA format?

Essay	A	B	C	D
Intro.	Creative, applicable attention getter. Concise overview of the primary argument. Clearly worded thesis that states position and the main support of the essay.	Applicable attention getter. Overview of primary argument. Clear thesis that states position and most points of support.	Attention getter present. Overview of primary argument present but weak or unclear. Thesis states, “in this essay I am going to...” Fails to mention points of support.	Attention getter lacking or inappropriate. Weak or missing overview of argument. Unclear or missing thesis statement. No mention of support made.
Organization	Clear expression of main points in relation to the thesis. Logical progression of ideas. Clear transitions between main points.	Main points clear with minimal repetition. Relatively logical progression of ideas. Transitions present between main points.	Main points distinguishable from one another. Points are repetitive or are extensions of other points. More than 1 idea in each paragraph. Unclear connection b/t points. Weak or no transitions.	Unclear main points / only one primary point discussed throughout the body. More than 2 ideas per paragraph. Unclear / awkward connection between points. No transitions.
Support	Uses 2 or more quotes for each main point. Clear and meaningful explanation of quotes in relation to larger argument.	Uses 1 quote for each main point. Explanation of quote made in relation to main point. Most support connected to larger argument.	Uses 3-4 quotes in essay. Unclear explanation of quotes in relation to main point or larger argument.	Fewer than 3 quotes for support throughout. Weak, missing, or unclear explanation to point or larger argument.
Sources	Uses 3 different sources; synthesizes information from sources within same paragraph	Uses 2 different sources; stacks information (1 source per paragraph)	Uses 1 primary source; cites in body paragraphs	Uses 1 primary source; only mentioned in introduction/conclusion
Quotes	Quotes are properly formatted with tags and citations. No errors in formatting.	Quotes are properly formatted with tags and citations. 1-2 minor errors in formatting.	Some quotes missing tags or citations. 3 or more errors in formatting.	“Floating quotes:” no tag, citation, or explanation. Multiple errors in formatting.
Conclusion <i>Exigency:</i> <i>The “Jerry Springer” final thoughts.</i>	Well-worded summary of main ideas in relation to thesis. Includes creative, poignant exigency.	Summarizes main ideas without repeating wording in the introduction. Exigency present.	Summarizes main ideas but repeats wording from introduction. Exigency present, but repeats thesis.	Unclear or lacking summary. Unclear or repetitious wording. Weak or lacking exigency.
Grammar	Less than 3 minor errors throughout. No major errors.	Less than 4 minor errors. No major errors.	Multiple minor errors throughout. 2+ major errors.	Errors impede understanding. Multiple major errors.
Works Cited	No errors in formatting. Has an entry for each citation from the essay.	Less than 3 errors in formatting. Has an entry for each citation from the essay.	More than 3 errors in formatting. Not all citations from essay have entries or entries not mentioned in essay.	Multiple errors. Improperly formatted. No Works Cited page.