

Introduction Examples

Text Excerpts

“Are you hot?
Are you cold?
Are you wearing that?
Where’s your books and your lunch and your homework at? Grab your coat and your gloves and your scarf and hat. Don’t forget; you got to feed the cat!”

Anita Renfroe wrote these catchy words for the song “Momisms,” sung to the familiar tune of the William Tell Overture. Her words best describe a typical day of mayhem through the eyes of a mother. Mothers who stay at home know that at times, their lives can be discombobulating. Despite the chaos, stay-at-home mothers get the tremendous responsibility of only having one chance of raising their children in such a way that makes a difference in their children’s lives and in society.

Throughout history, society has looked upon the male as the breadwinner: the one expected to work and support the family. The mother has been viewed as the nurturer: the one to stay home and raise the children. During the 1960’s, women wanted more rights, power, and the ability to get higher paying jobs. Women were given this right so they expressed this new found freedom by going to work outside of the home. As women sought employment, their children were left to the care of babysitters and day care workers. Because society has redefined the role of a mother to be one who is an important element in the workforce, the loss of the mother in the home has led to the decline of the family unit, and thus, to society. (Fellhoelter, 2008; Renfroe, 2007)

Who passed harsh laws that colonists desperately hated? Who taxed every printed item so the colonists had to pay more money? Who made the colonists only buy tea from the East India Tea company? England! King George III was wrong in making the colonists pay for everything without allowing them representation in voting. Patriots deserved freedom from England so they could have their own country and rule themselves. (Student sample)

Oil has contributed to mankind’s advancements and innovations, but the question is has oil corrupted mankind along this path? Has oil become such a craved item that it now controls certain aspects of society? Has it come to control society so much that factories and towns are willing to destroy themselves for money that the oil companies are willing to give them? (Cynthia J LHS, 2015)

I ran as fast as I could. I could see my destination just ahead of me. “Just a little further,” I kept saying to myself. “Just a little further and I will have made it to the land of the free and the home of the brave, the land of opportunity.”

Diego finally got to his destination. He had gotten to America without getting caught. Now he could get the education to become a mechanic.

Like Diego, many illegal immigrants come to America every day for a better life and a better education. Whether these illegal immigrants should get the education they came for is very controversial in today’s economy. Some Americans think that illegal immigrants shouldn’t be eligible for in-state tuition, but other Americans think that these illegal immigrants should be eligible for in-state tuition. I am one who thinks that illegal immigrants should be eligible for in-state tuition. (Achieve the Core, n.d.a)

“It is a warning that is transforming many encounters between residents and police in this sunbaked Southern California city: ‘You’re being videotaped.’”(Lovett) With recent incidents of police brutality, I believe that police should be required to wear body cameras. By arming police with body cams, society can better prevent cases of police brutality such like the case of Michael Brown and Trayvon Martin in late 2014. Body cams also have proved to help increase trust in police leading to better cooperate with police. (Jona P. 285439, 2015)

Each year, high school students take on a new set of classes, more challenging and demanding than last year's. Geometry leads to algebra which gives way to statistics and calculus. Students are expected to adapt to and grow with the increased difficulty in all subjects. Or almost all subjects—physical education hasn't changed in generations, mired in outdated tradition. Teaching students the value of a healthy lifestyle and the power of teamwork remains critical to their success in life. However, an unimaginative curriculum of forced laps and overly aggressive games fails to accomplish much beyond boredom and exclusion. Like other curricula, physical education should be updated to support and reflect the complexity and individuality of current day adolescents. (Berry & Moriarty, 2016)

At sixteen years old, Jack Andraka discovered an inexpensive method to test for pancreatic cancer. At just fifteen, Louis Braille invented the Braille writing system, allowing the blind to read and write. Additionally, Malala Yousafzai was seventeen when she won the Nobel Peace Prize for promoting women's education in Pakistan. These teens show themselves to be innovators and inspirers, their work rivaling the achievements of our most celebrated adults. However, even with the potential that every teen holds, they are denied a voice in who governs their own country. As a politically aware high school student, I should be allowed to vote at sixteen in the November 2016 election because my opinion is no less valid than the adults who vote. (Gold, 2016)

By just taking a simple look at the news, one can see that gun violence is simply too ubiquitous in society. With events such as the Colorado movie theater shooting and the Sandy Hook shooting, it is evident that guns are ending up in the wrong hands. Yes, the Second Amendment does provide citizens the right to bear arms, but in today's society, is that really necessary? Many people have lived long, enjoyable lives without having to use a gun. Also, why should semi-automatic guns be considered part of the civilian right to bear arms? Our government needs to take action against gun violence, but even after those tragic shootings, it still has not been enough. (Jordan P, 2015)

The topic of charter schools and vouchers is an ongoing debate that is currently being argued in places from the local school board meetings to state supreme courts. Both charter schools and school voucher programs are collectively referred to as "school choice" initiatives, in that they allow parents to choose educational options for their children that are outside of the traditional public school system. A school voucher program provides parents with certificates that are used to pay for education at a school of their choice, rather than the public school to which they are assigned. Charter schools on the other hand are publicly funded schools that have been freed from some of the rules, regulations, and statutes that apply to other public schools. In exchange, charter schools have specialized accountability for producing certain results, which are set forth in each school's charter. As Americans we enjoy choices and often associate choice as something positive. Being able to choose a school may sound like a reasonable initiative on the surface, but after a closer look it has serious problems. School choice turns out to not only be a bad idea; it's also a violation of our constitution. (Liles, 2008)

On September 3, 1995, a fatal automobile accident occurred on Highway 26; a small red car lost control when it hit a patch of wet pavement and headed straight toward a white Chevy Suburban. The impact of the collision ripped the small red car into two pieces, resulting in a large fireball and instantly killing the two twenty-year-old female occupants. No fatalities occurred within the Suburban (Smith). Had the Suburban been a smaller, more conventional car, the outcome may have been much different; no deaths may have occurred at all. SUV are becoming a huge risk on the roads today. Unfortunately, SUVs seem to be growing in popularity. This increase in popularity is cause for several annoyances, all of which seem to be directly related to their large size. Since these massive, gas-guzzling vehicles are hazardous on the roadways, SUVs should be illegal or somehow regulated. (Oregon State University, n.d.)

Hip-hop has always experienced an identity crisis. The question of "who does hip-hop belong to" is one that is deeply rooted in the issues of race and culture. One has to understand the history of hip-hop in order to truly appreciate it. Only then one can understand why the question of who hip-hop belongs to is such a contested one.

As defined by Q-Tip, renowned rapper and founding member of the influential rap group A Tribe Called Quest, hip-hop "is a creative artistic and socio-political movement/culture that sprang from the disparate ghettos of NY in the early 1970s... It proved a way for us to exalt to scream to dance to laugh and find OUR VOICE." The "us" is the young generation of African-American's raised in these impoverished areas who needed a medium to express their thoughts, feelings and emotions. This became hip-hop. A way for them to create an art that was their own, founded on previous African-American music. During it's early years, hip-hop truly could be defined as "their" music. (Noah C., 2015)

Life on this planet Earth is the product of a delicate balancing act provided by nature. Mankind's very existence is totally dependent on this fragile ecosystem's ability to maintain itself. A valuable player in the balance of the environment, the ozone layer, is facing a very serious threat by man. Chloroflourocarbons (CFCs), are chemical agents commonly found in refrigerants, aerosol sprays, and in the manufacturing of Styrofoam and industrial solvents. With the rate of more than a half-million tons of CFCs being spewed into the atmosphere yearly, the rate of ozone depletion is rising at an alarming rate. If a global effort is not made to end the unnecessary use of CFCs, the inhabitants of this planet face an extremely difficult and frightening future. (Armes, 1995)

Most Americans today don't feel valued at work. US Department of Labor statistics show that individuals who voluntarily leave their employment cite not feeling appreciated as the top reason they are leaving (Robbins, 2000). Although 51 percent of supervisors say they recognize employees who do a good job, only 17 percent of the employees at the same organizations report that their supervisors do well at recognizing them. (Society for Human Resources Management, 2012).

Like any workplace, schools need to ensure that employees feel appreciated for their good work. Research has shown that appreciation and recognition are important for educators in a variety of roles (Fraser & Brock, 2006; Giangreco, Edelman, & Broer, 2001; Heller, 2004). When teachers and staff feel valued, numerous positive results follow, including lower staff turnover (Scherer, 2003) and improved student achievement (Cotton, 2003). (White, 2014, p. 30)

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