

PURPOSE

To give teachers an example of a “5” level of achievement on a ThinkCERCA assignment.

A “5” level of achievement is the goal students and teachers should be working toward throughout the year. This example represents what a student at Grade 6 could achieve by the **END** (May) of Grade 6.

Text

Big Drinks: In or Out

CERCA QUESTION

Should the government ban large, sugary drinks?

Example Student Essay

When I was really young, my mom forced me to drink a glass of milk with each meal, even though I hated milk. But I was a kid, and she was my mom, so she could tell me what to eat and drink. **That makes sense for parents, but it doesn't make sense for the government.** Recently, the mayor of New York City proposed a ban on large, sugary drinks because many people in New York City, both adults and children, are overweight. Some people courts ultimately decided to strike down the ban because there were too many loopholes that defeated the purpose of the ban.

The court is right: the government should not ban large, sugary drinks because these kinds of laws limit civil liberties and personal responsibility.

Opponents of this kind of ban point to the fact that government should not have a say in what individual citizens are allowed to eat or not eat. **As Liz Berman, from New Yorkers for Beverage Choices, states, "We are smart enough to make our own decisions about what to eat and drink." She means that individuals should be allowed to choose what they want to eat or drink, and should not be limited by the government.**

Nice transition from a personal anecdote to your argument.

Nice transition.

Well cited evidence from a credible source and reasoning that links that evidence to your claim.

Good summary of the article.

Clear and concise claim and reason

Government Role in Health

Exemplar, Grade 6

Good reason that picks up the argument you introduced in the summary.

Another reason why the ban on large, sugary drinks does not make sense is because the ban did not take into account loopholes that exist that allow citizens to purchase sugary drinks in other ways. For example, large, sugary drinks were banned at restaurants but allowed at convenience stores.

Good examples from the text to support your reason.

Good ending to this paragraph that clearly wraps up your thinking and the reason you used in your introduction.

Large, sugary drinks were banned, but smaller ones were not, or other limit personal liberties in one specific way but not in others. The Supreme Court recognized this, and on March 12, 2013, ruled that the ban should not be enacted. The justices on the Supreme Court stated that there were too many loopholes that existed in the rule to make it worthwhile. The fact that the highest court in the United States recognized the loopholes in the ban proves that they are substantial.

Some proponents of the ban believe that the soda ban would "save lives" or that banning large, sugary drinks would help New Yorkers consume fewer calories. That may be true, but the fact remains that the government should not take a stand on what individual citizens can eat or drink. Most people can consume sugary drinks in moderation, and even if they can't, it's their own choice to be unhealthy or make poor decisions. It's not the government's business what we drink. Let us make our own choices!

Good counter-argument and interesting way to conclude your CERCA.

Powerful conclusion!