

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 5 could achieve by the END (May) of Grade 5.

TEXT

Vegetarian School Lunches

CERCA QUESTION

Should school cafeterias go all- vegetarian?

EXAMPLE STUDENT ESSAY

Should school cafeterias switch to an all-vegetarian menu? A vegetarian diet can be a healthy way to eat that helps students perform better in school and reduces the risk of some diseases. Schools that offer vegetarian food are finding that there are some benefits to the food, such as higher test scores, longer attention spans, and too many people are unhappy with the vegetarian options to make them worth the effort. School cafeterias should not go all-vegetarian.

First, it is a lot of work for schools to meet USDA requirements for school lunches without serving meat. The articles states that, "At first, it was hard for the school to meet USDA requirements for nutrition, specifically the amount of protein per serving." The school and the New York City education department had to work hard to make sure the all-vegetarian menu met the requirements. Having to work so hard to make sure your vegetarian meals meet all the USDA requirements isn't worth it. A lot of schools probably don't have anybody who has the time to figure out how to make vegetarian options meet the standards.

This reason for your claim is clear. Interesting that you put it before the claim. It makes why you chose your claim easy to understand.

Good evidence from the text that supports your claim

Good explanation of the evidence you presented. This is a good summary of some of the evidence from the text that supports your claim.

This reasoning is well thought out. You also used language that would connect with your audience and make them agree with your point of view.

This is a good summary and a nice introduction to your claim.

Nice, clear claim.

Using transitional words at the beginning of each paragraph helps your reader understand the important pieces of your argument.

Government Role in Health

Exemplar, Grade 5

ThinkCERCA

This is a nice way to present evidence: summarize what the article says and then provide two specific examples.

Also, a lot of students don't like the vegetarian options and don't eat them. According to the article, some students at schools with all-vegetarian menus didn't like the food. Students in Laguna Beach Unified School district didn't like the meals because the foods weren't what they were used to. Students in Kentucky said the vegetarian options tasted "like vomit." It doesn't make any sense to make so much food that students don't like. That means a lot of food will get thrown away and a lot of students will be hungry.

Good reasoning to tie the evidence you found back to your claim.

Good job putting the reasoning in the introduction and the conclusion of this paragraph. Putting reasoning around your cited evidence helps the reader understand why you think as you do.

Finally, it makes more sense for cafeterias to offer both vegetarian and meat options to please everyone. The article says that a combination of vegetarian and meat options is a good option to help meet regulations for lower-fat, lower-calorie options. Offering both vegetarian and meat options, "leaves it up to the individual student to choose from among a variety of healthy options, with or without meat," the article says. If you could make everyone happy by having a menu that has both vegetarian and meat options, why wouldn't you do that? It makes more sense to have the cafeteria workers work hard to have healthy choices that everyone will like.

Nice question to engage the audience.

In conclusion, switching to an all-vegetarian menu in school cafeterias isn't worth the time and effort. Too many people will be unhappy. Why not have a meal with vegetarian and meat options, which will keep everybody happy and healthy?

Good restatement of the claim as your conclusion

Putting this reasoning after the claim helps your readers understand your thinking.

Nice conclusion with a question that engages your audience and connects them to your claim.