

### PURPOSE

To give teachers an example of a “3” level of achievement on a ThinkCERCA assignment.

### TEXT

#### Big Drinks: In or Out?

### CERCA QUESTION

Should the government ban large, sugary drinks?

### EXAMPLE STUDENT ESSAY

These should both be capitalized.

Does this mean you think there should be no ban? Be sure to state your claim clearly.

Nice use of transition words to let your reader know what is coming next in the essay.

By writing, “I think” you lose some of the strength of your claim. If your claim is that there should be no ban, it should be clearly and strongly expressed.

New york city tried to ban large, sugary drinks. They said it was because they were trying to keep people from consuming so many calories, but they can still get lots of calories from other places. They can even still get big, sugary drinks at the convenient store, so the ban was basically pointless.

Though this sounds correct, it is actually “convenience” store.

First of all, obesity is not caused just by drinking sugary drinks. Lots of things have calories in it, like candy, fast food, and other foods. Plus, you can still buy big drinks at other stores, so the ban does not serve any real purpose.

Obesity causes lots of health problems like heart disease, some cancers, and diabetes. And eating lots of sugar can lead to obesity. Almost 40 percent of kids in New york city elementary and middle schools are obese, so there is obviously a problem. The problem needs to be addressed. Not selling large sugary drinks can help people get fewer calories when they buy a soda. New York City mayor said if people drink a little less sugary drinks, they can live longer, but I think you should be able to buy whatever you want.

Everyone agrees that having less sugar is a super good idea, but not everyone agrees with the ban. Lots of people think the ban is another example of New York making too many laws to try to keep people safe from making bad decisions when people think they are smart enough to make their own decisions, even if they are bad ones. People should

Who is “they?” Be clear who you are referring to. If it’s New York, or its officials, etc.

Strong way to start the essay, by summarizing the text.

This is repeated from the introduction. Each paragraph should contain evidence to support your claim, not just restating previous evidence.

This paragraph does a good job of explaining why sugar should be limited, but if your claim is that there should be no ban, it does not support your claim.

We often say this, but in writing, “super” should be used as an adjective only, not as an adverb. It can be a “good idea,” or even a “super idea,” but not a “super good idea.”

This is a run-on sentence and would be better as two or more separate sentences: one idea per sentence.

## CERCA Set: Government and Health

### Worked Example, 6



**Be more specific. Cite evidence from the text with names and dates when available.**

be allowed to decide what they want to eat and drink, even if they know some things are bad for them.

After New York made that rule, some people took it to court. They decided it was against the law to make this kind of ban. So it doesn't matter whether there should be a ban or not, because it's not legal.

**Your conclusion should restate your claim, not explain why the claim isn't important. This conclusion is not relevant to the CERCA question.**