

PURPOSE

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

TEXT

What Role Should Government Play in Combating Obesity?

CERCA QUESTION

Are government regulations such as New York’s soda ban the best way to combat obesity in the United States?

EXAMPLE STUDENT ESSAY

This is a good summary of the basic idea of the text.

Does this mean that your claim is that these types of regulations are NOT the best way to combat obesity? Be sure your claim is CLEARLY stated, and that the reader doesn’t have to guess or assume what your claim is.

This isn’t the best transition here. This implies that what follows is a different perspective, but that is not true here. Perhaps “Also” would be better.

The mayor of New York City has banned large sodas. The idea is that they are the cause of obesity, that they are bad for people, and that they should be limited and regulated just like other things that are unhealthy, like cigarettes. But many New Yorkers don’t like the ban because they say that it is against their personal freedoms and rights to have the government tell them what they can eat and drink since they think they have the right to make those choices themselves without the government interfering. The ban may help with obesity in the city, but it will also infringe on people’s individual rights.

First of all, a ban like this takes all responsibility away from the individual. People no longer have ownership of what they drink. There are a lot of other things that are dangerous, too. Why aren’t they regulated? Large sodas shouldn’t be banned just because they are bad for you if everything that is bad for you isn’t banned. That doesn’t make any sense. If the government’s purpose is to keep people safe and from making bad decisions, then a lot of other dangerous things should be taxed and banned, too.

However, drinking large sodas doesn’t hurt anyone besides the person who is drinking them. You can’t say that people being obese costs everyone money because of health care and other societal costs. What is needed is education, not regulation. If people knew that large amounts of sugary drinks were bad for them, they wouldn’t drink as many of them. That way, they wouldn’t have to be banned like in New

Is there any support for this reasoning in the text? Be sure to provide evidence for your reasoning.

While this is a good idea, it doesn’t seem to fit with the beginning of the paragraph. There are two different ideas here. Try to include one reasoning and its supporting evidence from

Avoid “things.” Use a more descriptive word such as “substances.”

This has some good ideas, but it is a run-on sentence. This would be better as two separate sentences.

Transitions are a good way of letting readers know what is coming in your essay.

For example? Be sure to support your reasoning with evidence cited from the text. Specific examples add weight to your argument and help support your claim.

This doesn’t fit the style of the rest of the essay. Avoid the second person (“you”) like this in this type of essay.

CERCA Set: Government and Health

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York. When people know that something is not healthy for them, they are less likely to eat or drink it.

The people who are more likely to drink the large sugary drinks are the poor. So banning them punishes the poor more than anyone else. Everyone shouldn't be punished by not being able to buy a large soda just because some people make bad decisions and are unhealthy. It doesn't make sense to ban something just so a few people won't abuse it.

Banning large sodas won't work anyway. Studies have shown that people are going to buy whatever they want to buy. They can justify anything to themselves. So taxes and bans on unhealthy food and drinks do not cause people to change their unhealthy habits. It only means that there is more regulation. People should be able to make bad decisions if they want, as long as they are only affecting themselves and not others.

This is supported by the text, but it should not be included in the conclusion. The conclusion should include a review of the reasoning you included in your essay and a strong, clear restatement of your claim.

While these are both ideas that are included in the text, putting the two ideas together doesn't seem logical. One idea does not support the other. Be clear about what your claim is and make sure each paragraph provides clear, positive support for your claim.

"affecting"