

## 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 7 could achieve by the END (May) of Grade 7.

## TEXT

### Should Junk Food Be Banned in Schools?

## CERCA QUESTION

Would banning junk food in schools teach kids how to make healthy eating choices?

## EXAMPLE STUDENT ESSAY

A lot of students at my school struggle with their weight. They are not alone. The CDC reports that 18 percent of young Americans are obese, and that number is rising. Obesity contributes to many health problems, so the issue is one that needs to be addressed. One way to address the issue of obesity is to stop people from eating junk food. Some people are proposing that government and schools should sugar. Yet some argue personal responsibility is more important to health because people should also exercise and learn about what junk foods are for themselves. There are many possible approaches to helping people be healthier, including educating people about healthy foods and exercise and people taking responsibility for their own health.

The most important step we could take to help people be healthier is getting rid of junk food in schools. Banning junk food in schools would teach kids to make healthy eating choices because it would give them nutritious alternatives and help them learn

Good use of evidence in your introduction.

Nice summary of the issues presented in the article.

Good clear claim.

Interesting reason.

# Government Role in Health

## Exemplar, Grade 7

ThinkCERCA

Good evidence and reasoning pair.

about living a healthy lifestyle.

If junk food were not allowed in schools, the students would automatically be restricted to eating healthy meals several times a day. According to the article, 32

million students eat lunch at school and many meals are given to children by the government. Schools have a responsibility to provide nutritional food to their

students, especially considering that many students eat 2 meals a day in school

cafeterias. Banning junk food would reduce students' sodium and sugar intake

leading to lower obesity rates and a healthier student body. Banning junk food in

schools may even have the added benefit of encouraging students to make healthy choices outside of school as well.

This extra reasoning takes the evidence and expands on it.

Good counter-argument paragraph with a clear connection to the claim and evidence from the text. Includes good reasoning that support your argument.

Some people feel that simply banning junk food does little to encourage a balanced diet and healthy lifestyle. It is true that, in the end, students are responsible for their

own health and should be free to make their own choices. But schools can certainly help their students live healthily by providing nutritious meals.

Nice conclusion.

Everyone agrees that childhood obesity is a problem. The role for school is to help students learn to be healthy adults. The author Simon Gray calls this "a public responsibility," and I agree. School is a place to learn many things, including good

health habits. It is also a great place to discuss healthy lifestyles and to exercise with classmates. But in the end, schools need to do what is best for students by banning

junk food to get them to make healthier choices more often.

Good restatement of claim.