

You state your claim here, but it could be worded positively instead of by name-calling. "It is not a good idea for cafeterias to offer only vegetarian lunches." is one example. Then, you could back up your claim with evidence.

### PURPOSE

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

### TEXT

#### Vegetarian School Lunches

### CERCA QUESTION

Should school cafeterias go all-vegetarian?

### EXAMPLE STUDENT ESSAY

A school in New York switched over to an all-vegetarian school lunch. They started by being all-vegetarian only a few days a week, but now they only offer vegetarian food. The school thinks its a good idea, but I think its stupid. Why should all of the kids in the school have to suffer just because a couple of kids want to eat only vegetables?

People who eat only vegetables are not healthy. You can't get enough protein in your diet from eating only vegetables, because protein comes from eating meat. If a cafeteria only offers vegetables for lunch, then all of the kids are going to be missing protein. If some kids don't want to eat meat, they don't have to eat the meat that is served with the regular lunch. They can just throw it away. Or they can bring their own lunches. But if they don't offer meat at all, all of the kids will be eating a bad diet and missing their protein.

Besides, it is easier for kids to bring vegetables to lunch than to bring meat. The only meat that you can eat cold is lunch meat and I don't like lunch meat so if I went to this school I'd have to eat cold pork chops or something because I'd have to bring my own lunch. It's easy to bring vegetables to school for your lunch if you want to be a vegetarian, but it's harder for the rest of us to bring meat. Schools should serve meat for us kids who don't want to only eat vegetables. The vegetarian kids can bring their carrots themselves.

Both of the "its" in this sentence should be a contraction of "it is" = "it's."

Asking questions is a compelling way to draw you audience into your essay, but this sounds too angry to be effective. What if your reader is a vegetarian?

Though transition words are a great way to let your audience know what is coming next in the essay, this one doesn't work well here. Perhaps, "Also" or "In addition" or "Another reason cafeterias shouldn't be al-vegetarian..."

This is a run-on sentence and would be better broken into several sentences. One idea per sentence is a good rule of thumb.

This is not supported by evidence in the text. In fact, the opposite is stated. It IS possible, just not easy.

Including yourself in the essay in the form of an anecdote at the beginning to draw the reader's attention is effective, but inserting your likes and dislikes can be distracting.

Your reasons should be based more on the needs and desires of all students rather than your personal preferences.

# CERCA Set: Government and Health

## Worked Example, 5

Your essay should be a clear statement of a claim with positive evidence supported by the text. "I guess" leaves the impression that you don't have a strong opinion.

This is off topic and does not add to the discussion of the CERCA question.

It's not necessary to repeat this in the same paragraph.

Though this is often said when speaking, it should not be included in a written

This should be the contraction of "you are," "you're "

It sounds like you may not have read the text carefully. There are a lot of foods that vegetarians eat besides vegetables. Be sure to consult the text several times while you are writing the essay to include accurate ideas and evidence.

The text does site weight loss, but not in the way you are referring to it here. Be sure you are presenting the evidence correctly.

I guess cafeterias could be vegetarian a few days a week. Like Monday, Wednesday, and Friday they could serve meat and the other days they could be vegetarian. But that would be a nightmare, trying to remember which days your only going to be fed vegetables and which days you'll get a real meal. Students have more important things to worry about than trying to remember which days are vegetable only days in the cafeteria. Some of us have A day/B day schedules which means we have to remember which classes we go to that day and which homework we have to have done. It's confusing enough without having to remember which days you have to bring your lunch.

Kids aren't eating the vegetarian food because they say it tastes like vomit. That's why so many kids in this all-vegetarian school are losing weight. The food doesn't have enough protein in it and kids aren't eating it because it tastes horrible, so that proves that all-vegetarian is not a healthy option. If a school wants to offer some vegetarian choices, that's fine, but don't go all-vegetarian and make all of us eat stuff that tastes like vomit. That's not fair.

This is a good compromise and has a place in the essay. However, your conclusion should be a restatement of your claim, clearly and after having supported it with adequate evidence from the text.