

### 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 3 could achieve by the **END** (May) of Grade 3.

### TEXT

**Peanuts in Schools: Is a Ban Best?**

### CERCA QUESTION

**Is a complete ban on nuts the best way for schools to address a nut allergy?**

### EXAMPLE STUDENT ESSAY

Clear claim.

Good first reason that explains your claim.

Good reasoning that ties your evidence back to your claim.

Nut allergies are very dangerous. Peanut allergies are common allergies in children. Some people, like Kathy Williams, think that schools should ban nuts completely. Others say that schools should make sure all teachers and students are aware of foods containing peanuts. Schools should be prepared for a student to have an allergic reaction. It might seem safer to make a school nut-free, but it might not be safe. A complete ban on nuts is not the best way for schools to address a nut allergy.

The reason banning nuts isn't the safest idea is that nuts are in many unexpected foods, like a granola bar. According to Dr. Stanley Fineman from the American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology, "The problem with schools becoming peanut-free is that this presents a false sense of security. Parents and children will think their child is completely safe, when in reality, your child and his/her teachers should always be prepared for an allergic reaction." The article gives the example of a student at a peanut-free school accidentally bringing a granola bar that was made in a factory that also makes products with nuts in them. At that school, a student with an allergy could have an allergic reaction.

Good summary of the article.

Good reason for why you think as you do.

This evidence is credible.

# Government Role in Health

## Exemplar, Grade 3

ThinkCERCA

This gives more reasoning to connect the evidence of the granola bar back to your claim!

Good conclusion.

A student with allergies in a nut-free school would think he was safe. Then that person with the allergy wouldn't be careful about other people's snacks because he thought the school was peanut-free. The teachers might not be on the lookout for allergic reactions or be prepared to help a kid with allergies.

The article gives a better option to keep kids with nut allergies safe. That option is allergy awareness. The article gives the example of a school in Highland Park, Illinois, which thinks it's better to focus on allergy awareness. Allergy awareness means checking classroom treats to make sure they are nut-free. It's better to make sure everybody knows there are kids with allergies and make sure all snacks are safe for those kids. Those schools would also be prepared for kids to possibly have allergic reactions. So allergy awareness is a much safer option than being nut-free. That's why a complete ban on nuts is not the best way for schools to address a nut allergy.

Good introduction to this final paragraph.

Good restatement of claim.