

PURPOSE

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

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

Lots of kids are obese, and obesity causes lots of health problems. We all want kids to be healthy, so they should be given healthy food. Many kids eat lunch at school and some even eat breakfast there, too. Since so many kids are eating so much food at school, it is a good opportunity for schools to make sure that kids have only healthy choices to choose from so that they start getting in a habit of eating healthy food instead of junk food.

Junk food isn't the only way that kids are unhealthy. They need to get more exercise and eat all sorts of good food, not just avoid candy and soda. I like potato chips, so I hope that any rule like this wouldn't include potato chips. I don't think they are that unhealthy for you since they don't have a lot of sugar in them. They're not really junk food, so they should be allowed.

When students eat good food, they learn better. They are healthier and make better grades. Everyone can agree that eating good is important. That's why schools should ban junk food. If kids are only given good things to eat, they have no choice but to eat good. this means kids will do better in school. If there is no junk food in schools kids can't eat it.

Also, lots of people have already proven that you can make rules about what people can eat. California and New York have made rules about what people can eat, so anyone can. They have banned all sorts of bad foods in different places. Schools should be a place where kids

This is a good place to include actual statistics. Put numbers to your idea of “lot.”

This is true, but it does not help support your claim.

Good reasoning as evidence.

Transition words are a good way to let your reader know what to expect next.

Give specific examples so support your statement.

This is often said, however, you ‘ll notice in the text that the correct word is “healthful.”

This is a run-on sentence and would be better written as two or more sentences. Also, this is not a clear statement of your claim. One can assume that you believe there should be a ban on junk food, but your claim should not make the reader assume. It should be clearly stated.

Personal anecdotes are a good way to make the essay “real” to readers, but this is off topic and doesn't support your claim.

Since this modifies “eating,” it should be the adverb “well.”

“well”

This would be another good place for examples cited from the text. Specifics give your reasoning support.

can go to learn about making good decisions. If there is no junk food, they can't make bad decisions about food, so they'll have to make good decisions. Banning junk food can help them.



If there is no junk food in school, however, the students are not really making decisions at all. Your conclusion should be a strong restatement of your claim. This leaves the reader with more doubts rather than being convinced.