

A "D" Sample

Writing Prompt: What, in your opinion, is the best way to stop bullying in schools?

The Anti-Bully

The best way to deal with bullying in schools is to make and enforce laws against it. These laws would allow kids to learn better at school and they would decrease bullying in schools.

Safer schools for kids will allow them to become better students. Bullying happens in every school that you may go to. Some more than others, but it's always there. These situations cause many problems to the students. For example, in an article written by Daniel B. Weddle it says that bullying is not taken seriously. This leaves the student, that is being harrassed, with only a couple of choices. He is either to let the bullying continue, avoid school, or fight back. Also, bullying can make the harassed lose the desire to learn or maybe even to live (1). When students don't feel safe they loose any focus toward school. That is why their will to learn goes away. But if there were laws set and enforced, kids can go on only having to worry about their school work.

With laws and consequences against bullying, the amount of bullying would decrease. Nothing is being done about this problem because it is considered a part of everyday life. But the real reason is that nothing is being done because some teachers just don't care to get involved. An example of this is in an article written by Daniel B. Weddle. She says, "school officials have little legal incentive to embrace significant reform because they are seldom held responsible even for serious outbreaks of violence among students, much less for the ongoing harassment that occurs routinely in their halls and classrooms" (1). Because teachers are not really held responsible for outbreaks, even serious ones, they decide to do nothing. I would not want my kid going to a school where the teachers do nothing when someone is being harassed. With these laws set in place, it would allow teachers to be held responsible if nothing is done. Also, the laws act like a motivation for the teachers to take some serious action.

There is more than one way to solve this problem but the best way so far is to set down rules and enforce them. I would think that we all want our kids to do well in school. And giving them this feeling of security is what will help them to focus on school instead of worrying what's going to happen to them at school.

Commentary on the "D" Sample

Paragraph One: Although the thesis is adequate, the writer makes no attempt to place the thesis in any context or to interest the reader.

Paragraph Two: Although the topic sentence rewords a thesis point, the rest of the paragraph strays immediately from the main point. Because the writer does not follow the topic sentence,

the paragraph wanders, making only vaguely related statements about bullying in school, failing to explain how safer schools will create "better students." Although the writer attempts to make reference to the reading, his paraphrase is uncited and unrelated to the main point. Only at the very end of the paragraph does the writer return to the point, but he/she never illustrates or fully explains the connection between safety and learning. The word choice is often vague and/or repetitious.

Paragraph Three: This paragraph stays on the point, for the most part. The topic sentence is adequate. The writer claims that "nothing is being done about this problem" and that "teachers just don't care," but gives no evidence in support of the claims. The writer then brings in a relevant quotation about "school officials" not having "incentive to embrace significant reform" but provides little specific explanation. The rest of the sentences basically repeat the same statement about how teachers should be responsible without giving evidence or examples. In general, the writer's wording is vague and often repetitive.

Conclusion: The conclusion is an adequate summary of the main points, though nowhere in the essay does the writer say what rules or regulations he/she would set down and enforce.

Grammar and Punctuation: The essay does not demonstrate consistent command of sentence structure. With a fragment and several minor comma, spelling, and pronoun errors, the mechanics might be considered borderline, but in combination with the lack of examples and the unity and coherence problems, the essay definitely falls below a C.