

NeSA-Writing

ENE233

2013

GRADE 11

Writing

Scoring Guide

Writing Topic

The principal has formed a committee to revise the student handbook and has asked for recommendations.

Think about a rule that should be added, changed, or removed.

Write a persuasive essay convincing the principal's committee to accept your recommendation. Provide reasons and/or examples to support your idea.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PERSUASIVE ESSAY

Purpose

- To get the reader to accept the writer's point of view on the issue posed by the writing prompt
- To adopt the writer's way of thinking about the issue posed by the writing prompt

Organizational Pattern

- Introduction
 - ✓ May have a hook or grabber to get the reader's attention
 - ✓ Clearly conveys the writer's opinion/position on the topic/thesis statement
- Body
 - ✓ Provides evidence to support the writer's opinion/purpose
 - ✓ Evidence will be in the form of facts, reasons, examples, details, etc.
 - ✓ Effective transitions show how ideas connect
 - ✓ May present pros and cons of an argument
 - ✓ Anticipates the reader's questions
- Conclusion
 - ✓ Restates the writer's opinion/position, thesis statement, or focus
 - ✓ May summarize the main point included in the body
 - ✓ May include a personal comment or call for action

Ideas / Content

Our school board has implemented an "anti-hoodie" rule. This rule was put in place to prevent students from bringing in illegal weaponry and to combat texting. However it is my and almost every member of HTRS's opinion that this is an unnecessary and useless rule. Today we will look at the details of the rule, the faults of the rule, and finally ways to fix the faults.

The hoodie rule was put into place my sophomore year. Its stated purpose is to prevent students from bringing concealed illegal weaponry into the school after the many scares in Lincoln and Omaha at the time. It also was meant to stop students from texting during class. The rule specifies the pull over hoodies with a large pouch in the front. Hoodies with a zipper splitting said pouch in two are allowed.

While it's not a drastic rule, there are many problems or faults in this rule. For example, students are *required* to carry a large laptop bag to every class and home with them at night. Carrying a concealed weapon in these bags is far easier and more likely than the small pouch of a pullover hoodie. Further, anything placed into the bag is impossible to identify from the outside of the bag while it is very easy to see the outline of any object placed into a hoodie. Also, while I do not text during school hours, students who do text often express that it is just as easy to do in the zip up hoodie pockets as the pullover hoodie's pouch, if not easier. One friend explains: "It keeps the phone right at the edge of the pocket where it is easily reached and used." The HTRS booster club sells merchandise during home games. Another fault of the rule is that the *only* hoodie the booster club sells is the outlawed pull over hoodie. Zip up hoodies can only be ordered once a year in the fall from a special handout.

There have been many attempts for the rule to be revoked. The guidance counselor along with the student council made a presentation to present to the school board at the monthly board meeting. They researched the topic and asked schools in the area about their rules concerning texting and

hoodies. It was found that we are the only local school implementing a hoodie rule while many prevented the use of cell phones during class. After everything was prepared, the students and counselor presented it to the board. They proposed that instead of not allowing hoodies, there should be a designated time in which to use cell phones, such as lunch. They also suggested that the school follows the example of Lincoln schools and install metal detectors at the entrances of the high school to prevent concealed weaponry. Before the students had even finished their presentation they were dismissed and their suggestions denied. They tried again at a later board meeting but had the same result. The fact that they would not even listen to what the students had to say angered many students and even faculty. Some teachers even began to disregard the rule and did nothing if students wore hoodies to their classes. The next year however, the school board told the staff that if they did not enforce this rule they would immediately be fired.

The hoodie rule is meant to prevent students from bringing weapons and texting in class. But it has many obvious faults that the board refuses to acknowledge. Because of this it seems to be more of a "you will do whatever we say" message than a rule trying to protect us students. Unfortunately I do not see it getting revoked anytime soon.

Ideas/Content: 4

4-4-4-4

The writer conveys a clear opinion regarding the need to change the 'anti-hoodie' rule at his school. The content is well focused throughout the response on the idea that this rule does not prevent weapons or texting in schools. The reasoning is logical and compelling. The supporting examples are numerous and relevant.

d 4-4-4

Many students love to read and get on to computers to write for their classes or just to pass the time. The best place to do this would be a nice quiet room with lots of books and wide open spaces for the ideas to flow freely. The library is an extraordinary place to focus on school work and to relax from the school day. Unfortunately, the library doesn't allow everyone in. You must get a pass from your class to be in the library, or at lunch you can get one of few passes from the office. This restricts the amount of people in the library and limits the student body from getting to a nice quiet place to relax.

The library is where all of the librarians stay and filter which kids have passes and who don't. This process is left entirely up to their will to ask or not and the library is too big to only have a handful of students to be allowed in at any given time. If we allowed more students in freely, without a pass, then it would be a much more common place to be. You would still have to sign in and follow the laws of the library but then you could escape the loud and busling school. This would also increase test scores because of the time you could have to study in a quiet environment.

Allowing more people into the library would allow for easier tensions between the librarians and the students. Before school the library is open for anyone to walk in and do whatever. How come the rest of the school day isn't that way? If people are just coming into the library to talk then they can leave and that will be left up to the librarian. You must let people have the choice of going to the library though. Without access to the library many students would not have a chance to use a computer or read books. Many students come up to the library wanting to come in but they don't have a pass. Teachers do not give passes out often and writing a pass is tedious if everyone wants one. The student should have to sign in by scanning their identification card around their neck and the past history of the student will show up telling the librarian whether or not the student should be allowed to stay or if the student has acted poorly in the library before. This way the library will be able to maintain homeostasis while allowing people to get their work done.

Computers now-a-days are half of the library. They are essential with information sharing and receiving. Labs are closed to the public because classes use them. The library, however, is a public place where the computers should be a first come first serve. The computers already have inappropriate websites blocked. The librarian can also monitor computers and see if any of the students are not doing what they were supposed to be doing. If a student is breaking a rule on the computer, the librarian would write down the student ID being used for the computer and document what the person was doing wrong and then kick the person off of the computer. The beginning might be full of people losing their privileges at the computer but sooner or later the people who actually use the library and need it will be there and the people who just want to mess around won't be allowed in. People skipping class who try to hide in the library would be sent to class. Once they scan in, it will tell the librarian what class they are supposed to be in and they would be told to go back to class or a security guard would escort them back.

Having a public library be not open to the public is a huge paradox. Allowing the library to be open to the student body would greatly improve test scores, reduce student anxiety levels, and give students access to computers and books during the school day. The library would not turn into a hangout place such as the bayou because the library would keep its rules and regulations. Students who create problems in the library will be asked to leave and

documented for what they did to get kicked out. Libraries are places of greatness, let people become great.

Ideas/Content: 4

4-3-3-3

The writer conveys a clear opinion regarding the need to allow more students into the library. The content is well focused on the problem and the remedy, and the writer provides logical and compelling reasons that will benefit all students at the school. Supporting examples are thoroughly developed and relevant.

Rule Change

There are many rules in our student handbook, but there is one rule that sticks out to me that I don't think is a good rule. Hoodies, I don't understand why we can't wear them. The first reason we can't wear them is because we can text in them. Second reason is because we can hide weapons in them. My third reason why I don't understand is, our school sells them but we can't wear them at school.

So if teachers think not letting kids wear hoodies is going to stop them from texting, they are wrong. The pocket on the hoodie sags down when there is a phone in it, so it is easier to catch a kid with a phone. A jacket with zip up pockets is better because you can't really see the phone and if you have it zipped up your phone won't fall out. But if you have the phone in the hoodie pocket it is a greater chance that the phone will fall out. And if someone's phone is small enough they can fit it in the pocket of their jeans.

Another reason we can't wear hoodies is because you can conceal a weapon under it. But honestly taking away the hoodie is going to stop a person. Kids are a lot smarter these days; if they want to do something they will most likely do it. If they are really concerned with stuff like that then they should be checking bags, because that seems like a better place to hide things. Also there are not many children that are going to bring a weapon to school, but teachers should pay attention to what kids are saying and doing. Then if they think they are going to do something bad like that, they should talk to the counselor.

Our school is big on school spirit so they sell T-shirts, jackets, sweats, and hoodies. So if we are not allowed to wear hoodies why would the school sell them? The teachers say that we can wear them outside of school, but then we can't wear our school spirit at school. Hoodies are

very comfortable and they keep us warm in that one classroom that it feels like it could start snowing.

So out of all the rules in the handbook, the one rule they should change is to let us wear hoodies. Taking away the hoodies is not going to stop kids from texting during school. They are not going to stop kids from bringing weapons to school. Also if they are going to take away the hoodie they should not sell them at school. Hoodies are really comfortable and keep us warm, so they should change this rule.

Ideas/Content: 3

3-3-3-3

The writer conveys a general opinion about the ban on hoodies at his school. The content is generally focused on three main reasons the writer feels this rule needs to be changed. The reasoning is logical and somewhat convincing, but it is not compelling. The supporting examples are adequate and relevant.

In the school handbook there are many rules such as don't bring food to school, always have an i.d on, no truancies or fines to be able to go to a school activity and many more. In some rules I believe in, but some are unnecessary. If a security guard see you bringing food to school they will take it away and throw it, but they don't understand that some students don't have time for breakfast so they bring food to school to not be late. If you don't bring an i.d or don't wear it, teachers make you go to the front desk to buy a temporary for a dollar. Then it would become a fine if you don't pay that dollar. The last problem is if you have truancies or fines you wouldn't be able to get to go to any school activities such as homecoming, or prom.

First rule that I would want removed is not bringing food to school and eat in class. Some students have a first period, which is a seven a.m. class and don't have time for breakfast. To not be late students just bring their breakfast to school to eat so it wouldn't affect their attendance or their health. That way they can learn and not miss a meal of their day. Securities should not take away students food because if they paid for it, it's theirs and it would be a waste of their money to buy it for no reason. It's not fair if teachers are able to bring food to class that students should be able to bring it too. Teachers may be at school all day and need to eat, but students are also going through the same.

Second rule I would like to remove is that we always have to have an i.d on. If students bring ids to school then I don't see no point of wearing it, if an administrator asks to see a students' i.d then he/she will just pull it out. If a student doesn't have an i.d he/she would have to buy a temporary for a dollar, and would be a fine if not paid. A temporary is a piece of sticker that you write your name and i.d number on, which I feel that it is not worth a dollar. Administrators believe your i.d identifies that you go to that school and if you don't have one on then that means your a random person roaming the school. I don't think any random person would roam around a random school, it's on students that are in the school.

The last rule I believe should be removed is if you have truancies or fines you are not allowed to go to homecoming or prom. Homecoming and prom are one of the biggest nights every high schooler can't wait to attend to. Just because a student has truancies and fines should not be in the way of their big night. Every student deserves to go to all school activities, and one little problem like having a truancy should not be a big deal. That's like telling a teacher he/she can not work just because he/she didn't grade papers on time.

Ideas/Content: 3

3-2-3-2

The writer conveys a general opinion about three separate rules that should be changed at his school. The content is generally focused on these three rules, rather than sharply focused on any single rule. While the supporting examples for each idea are adequate and relevant, the development of a strong convincing recommendation for any one of the three rules has not been achieved. The reasoning is logical and somewhat convincing for each of the three recommended rule changes.

Stop Harassment

If the principal formed a committee to revise the student handbook and has asked for recommendations I would recommend adding to the no harassment rule that if anyone dose harass someone they will be immediately thrown in, in school suspicion and given more school work. To explain why we need this I will first start with what this will do for kids who get harassed, what it will do for the school, and why we need this rule added in.

Kids get harassed a lot my other kids and they don't like it and it is as bad as bullying. Harassment can cause a lot of problems for the kids who get harassed, like wanting to stay away from other kids or wanting to be unsocial. This causes kids not to make friends so they become depressed because they believe no one likes them. This can cause kids to committee suicide. But adding this rule into the harassment rule could help the kids who are victims to harassment. The rule I see in the handbook about harassment sure doesn't stop harassment from happening and I believe if we add this rule it will stop harassment because no one likes to go to in school suspicion and do extra work and have to talk some home.

It will help the school to keep kids from getting harassed and keep the school from getting in trouble with the state about not keeping their kids in line. It will also help the school to control the student none to harass other kids. The rule will help to keep the kids who get harassed from wanting to leave the school. So it would be a great rule to help the school as well.

We need the rule added in because harassment can hurt a lot of people if it can't be stopped and this could be a good rule to do that. Also the students who do the harassing wouldn't want to have to go to in school suspicion and do extra school work and take a lot home the first time they harass

someone, so it could be a good rule to stop harassment. Harassment can be a really bad thing to have to go through and kids shouldn't have to go through it. Harassment can almost overlap bullying and can hurt other people's lives and can even cause a kid to take their own life.

So if the principal has formed a committee to revise the student handbook and has asked for recommendations I would recommend the principal and committee to add to the no harassment rule that anyone who harasses anyone will be immediately thrown into, in school suspension. It could help a lot of people from being harassed and could help the school from getting in trouble with the state.

Ideas/Content: 2

2-2-2-3

The writer conveys a limited opinion about adding stricter consequences to the no harassment rule in the school handbook. The main idea, that the current rule does not prevent harassment and adding in-school suspension will help those students being harassed, is not adequately developed and supporting examples or details are limited. While the reasoning is somewhat logical, the notion that the new rule will 'help' (the school or kids) is simply repeated throughout the essay without much elaboration and does not demonstrate an adequate or convincing recommendation.

I believe that food should be allowed in class cause students like me never eat breakfast either don't have time or you cant just wake up. This can be very debatable on you should be able to wake up and eat on your own. i haven't ate breakfast in all my years in high school. Food should also be allowed cause some students have second lunch, and they got to wait one more period then the first lunch people. And if you could bring a snack or food before lunch then i think a whole lot students would do so much better then what they are doing now or somewhat better, because you don't have to think on when can i go to lunch, students wont sleep in class just for time to go by for lunch, you be thinking on what is on the menu. Food or snack should also be allowed cause what if a student forgets to bring his money to school and they will have nothing to eat pretty much the whole the day, unless you have great friends that have your back daily. But food or snack before lunch is a great idea. Another debate is that the students wont pick after there self after they get down eating, and i could under stand that teacher would hate to remind students every day but i think thats fine cause teachers have to pretty much remind students to bring a pencil or paper so i think they could under stand that eating is healthy for you and breakfast is the most important meal of the day.

Ideas/Content: 2

2-1-2-1

The writer conveys a limited opinion about being allowed to have food in class. While the content does generally stay focused on the topic of food in class, the supporting examples are limited in their development and the reasoning is only somewhat logical and convincing.

The rules, regulations, and limitations on a student handbook all did well to remind the student what is civil and "right" in a public area. Although majority of those have work well in the past, problems still exist on the public grounds. As many of the regulations have added to the student handbook in the past, but still, more can still be contribute to the handbook in a "light" reminder to the students. Behave is the main problem that come up in every teacher meeting. Going to one without hearing a whiff about the issue surely is a rare case. In this case, the handbook should add the future directions that one might take and the consequence of the choice, whether its a profit or a lost.

In any school ground or public place there tend to be some one that stand out in a negative way. Adult or teenager is the main case at getting in trouble only because of their age. Any civilize person would think that those that cannot manage their behavior does not receive enough discipline or just plainly unable to control how they behave. Of course, rarely anyone would voice their opinion in this matter to the misbehavior one. Anyone would be look-down-upon, even if they can't manage themselves. No one would want this to happen to them. This matter can be fix, if only it was done in early time.

At any time to change a behavior, the earlier the better. Middle school going to high school is the be time to change, only because at that time many are growing up fast and behavior tend to change at this time. Students at this age seem to change according to school curriculum and friends that hang out with each other.

As one may read through the handbook they may realize the right things that they are doing or wrong doing for some others. Add

Ideas/Content: 1

1-1-1-1

The writer conveys little opinion about the topic as the reader is unclear what rule in the handbook should be changed. While the writer says the handbook should add direction and consequences, there is little development of this idea and further reasoning is unclear or missing. Supporting examples are lacking.

It is hard to say what rules can or cannot be changed added or removed. The principal has a good idea to revise the student handbook and asking for recommendations. I know there is many people here who don't like school and some people who do.

I think school should give us a longer lunch. When I go to lunch I am hungry and I want sum time to sit and relax with my friends. Only 30 mins to eat just isn't enough.

They could also get us some better food in the cafeteria. I am tired of eating pizza, french fires, and fruit cups all fo the time. Mcdonalds and burger king sould come in and sell students there food so then we won't need to leave to go eat.

Ideas/Content: 1

1-1-1-2

The writer conveys little opinion about the topic. While a recommendation for a longer lunch and better food in the cafeteria has been presented, the content lacks development of supporting ideas and the reasoning is inappropriate or irrelevant. The writer's position is unconvincing.

Organization

Lunch is one of the few times during the school day where students can just relax. It is a time when students can relieve some of their stress by socializing with friends. It provides students with a meal that fuels them for the rest of the day. Unfortunately, with lunch being so short, many students aren't able to enjoy lunch to the fullest. I propose that lunch should be expanded in time, extending from approximately 30 minutes to 40 minutes.

As I just stated, lunch is supposed to be a relaxing time. It's supposed to be a time when students can just take a break from their hectic and busy days. However, for many students, lunch turns out to be another stressful event to an already extremely stressful day. Because of how short the lunch period is, students are worried about getting their food and getting it eaten in time. At [REDACTED] the lunch line can be so long that takes nearly 20 minutes to get through at times. By the time you even get your food, you have to scarf down as much as you can before the bell rings. Instead of providing a calming break in the middle of the school day, lunch has become another stressor in a stress-filled day.

Another reason lunch should be extended in length is due to the nourishment it provides. Many students can't make it through the school day focused without a solid, balanced meal in the middle of it. Students oftentimes don't have time to finish all of their food, which deprives them of the proper nourishment that they deserve. If students are able to completely finish their lunches, it is usually because they had to eat really fast in order to do so, which in itself is a very unhealthy practice. Eating quickly puts a lot of pressure on your digestive system and makes it harder for body to break down the food and the nutrients that they contain. Students should be able to sit down to a nice meal and be able to enjoy it at a comfortable pace, but because of the length of the lunch period, this is a rare occasion for some students.

My final point as to why lunch should be lengthened applies to approximately only half of the students, although it is still an important issue. At [REDACTED] the upperclassmen (Juniors and Seniors) have the privilege of leaving the school campus and going out to eat for lunch. The upperclassmen have earned this through their hard work over the years and deserve some good food. With all do respect, the school food is subpar and going out to eat is a nice treat for these students. This is a very generous act and a good idea by the school, but I believe this experience could be made better. With lunch being only 30 minutes long, students don't have a lot of options as to where they can eat. Most of the time, students will just choose the quickest restaurants in order to ensure they get back to school on time. Unfortunately, many of the quick restaurants are some of the most unhealthy ones too. Even with picking quick restaurants students still have to rush to eat their food and get back to school on time. If lunch were extended, students would have more options to make healthier choices during lunch and also be able to enjoy the experience of going out more.

Sometimes lunch is the only time when a student can truly talk to their friends during the day. It is one of the few times throughout the day when students can socialize and have a good time. Because lunch is only 30 minutes long, students can enjoy it to its fullest. Lunch should be extended from 30 minutes to 40 minutes because it would allow students to have a break during the day without cutting into that much time of the school day. Lengthening the lunch period would allow students to be able to relax and have enough time to eat, get the proper nourishment they need, and help upperclassmen enjoy their privilege of going out to the fullest.

Organization: 4

4-4-4-4

The structural development of an introduction, body, and conclusion is effective in this response about extending the lunch period. While introductory transitions between paragraphs are more functional, more sophisticated internal transitions are used effectively to connect the ideas within the body of the paragraphs. Pacing is well controlled and paragraphing is sound. A strong conclusion restates the writer's position and effectively summarizes the main points of the essay.

Being a student who cares about their education there are many things about school that I enjoy but there are also many things that I wish were different. I absolutely support the policies for discipline, the dress code, and how students should conduct themselves at school. These are meant to benefit us not make life more difficult like many students believe. However there is one major change I would make to the student handbook. I believe our grading system isn't fair and doesn't consider all the hard work we put in to take the tests in our classes. I hope you can see my point of view with the flaws of the current system, the changes I would like to make, and the reaping benefits to those changes.

Our current grading system is divided into two parts. Summative which are all the tests and quizzes you take and they make up 80% of your grade, and Formative which are all the classwork, homework, and labs you do which are 20% of your grade. The amount of assignments in my formative grade is usually double or triple the amount of tests we take making each assignment we do worth less and less. Now the tests we take are usually weighted meaning each question is worth more than one point, usually anywhere from two to five points. Depending on the class, the amount of tests I take are different. In a class where we take very few tests, the tests are that much more important because they are the majority of my grade, and there aren't many other tests that can balance them out. I firmly believe that this doesn't help me learn because I become consumed with getting an A in the class rather than making sure I actually know the material.

In my classes I usually enjoy learning the new material because I'm interested in what the teacher is saying but in the back of my mind there is always that lingering thought of I hope my grade is still at an A. I propose that the grading system go back to the good old days when it was a 50/50 system. 50% of your grade were the tests you take and the other 50% were all the classwork, worksheets, and labs you did. I understand that tests are important because they judge whether or not you have been learning and paying attention in class, and with this system it makes more fair than before. This would make all of the work you do to prepare for the tests worth more and the tests worth less but still having a significant value in the grade book. I feel that teachers would appreciate this too because the students would be more willing to put in the effort and get help if they didn't understand it. With this system doing bad on one test won't bring your grade down a whole letter grade like the old system it will instead bring you down but within reasonable proportions.

The benefits of this new system would be seen all across the board. The scale is balanced and fair for everyone. Students would feel that their effort is being appreciated and that tests aren't the only important things in the gradebook. It will motivate those who don't like to do anything to at least try because it can become easier to raise your grade if you do bad on one test. The teachers, I think, would see more of an urge and willingness to learn the curriculum because of the reward it brings to their students. The system still requires work and effort but there is a better chance of actually seeing your work pay off. The parents of the students wouldn't have to worry as much with the new system because if their student does bad it won't immediately drop them a letter grade. The parents will know if their kid is actually struggling because if their grade continually gets lower than they know they aren't understanding it or putting in the effort. Everyone here will benefit and be pleased with this change because it is more encouraging to students, teachers, and parents.

My proposal is not far-fetched or out of this world. It is reasonable and a good change to make in order to see more students succeed. There once was a time when we did follow this system and with the curriculum getting harder by the day I think this would be a serious benefit to all of those involved. I strongly believe the old grading system is wrong and filled with errors, but the this new grading system is encouraging and sincere. I hope you consider this change to the student handbook as a new and fresh start.

Organization: 4

3-4-3-3

The structural development of an introduction, body, and conclusion is effective in this response about changing the school grading system. A strong and effective introduction grabs the reader's attention and clearly conveys the writer's opinion and sets up the main points of the essay. Pacing is well controlled as the essay smoothly flows through each of the main points. Strong transitional phrases are used effectively to connect the ideas between paragraphs, and an effective conclusion restates the writer's opinion and appeals to the principal's committee to make a fresh start. Paragraphing is sound.

There are a lot of regulations in the student handbook. What students can wear, what language is to be use, how to treat people, and no cell phones. Cell phones should be allowed though. Not during class of course, but they should be allowed during lunch and passing periods. This would cause a lot less stress and problems during class periods. That is because students won't argue with teacher about their phone, the students would be more focused during class, and they could have more communication with family and friends.

First off teachers and students wouldn't argue as much about phones. "Excuse me, young lady there are no phones during school." Do you every hear that or maybe you hear "Insert name here give me your phone, I have to take it to the principal's office you'll get it back at the end of the semester." "What! No way! I'm not giving you my phone!" Teachers and students go around and around about phones in class and in the halls. If we would allow it during passing period it wouldn't be so bad.

Secondly, students would be more focused. Teachers can have students leave their phones, on silent; not vibrate, in a basket at the door during the class period so they would be more focused. And then students don't have it at their desk or pocket or sitting on their lap texting people and they can learn the lesson the teacher is trying to teach. Also teachers can have repercussions if a student is found with their phone in class maybe detention or giving the phone to the principal for the rest of the week. But if the student followed the rules and left it in the basket during class they would get it back when they left and could text when they leave for their next class. Then as enter the next class they would place their phones back into a basket and have a seat. Also if teachers allowed it students could go get their phone and quietly text people during their free time, if they are done with they work and are not down in any classes. This would have students more focused and work harder so they get the privilege of their phone.

And lastly, it would give them more communication with their family and friends. Have you ever been and class and thought, 'Oh shi...shoot I forgot to tell my mom about the concert tonight and I have to bring a dish!' Of course you have everyone has. We forget about something and when we pull out our phones we get yelled at. It would be a good idea to allow us to call or text family or friends about things we forgot to tell them or questions we need to ask them. Half of the time we aren't just text some cute boy two counties over, I said half, but we're texting parents, recruiters, and work. We're asking questions, giving information and trying to make sure we've got this big ball of crazy we call life under control.

Students are smart and they find a lot of ways around the handbook. Students are smart enough to not get caught, but why try and catch them why not just adjust the rules a bit and make it so it fits both the students and the teachers? Make it so everyone's happy. The students will be easier to get along with and the grades will probably improve. Let the students have their phones so they use more energy learn than hiding their phones and sneaking around. Let the students be less arguable, more focused and more communicative.

Organization: 3

3-3-3-3

The structural development of an introduction, body, and conclusion is functional in this response about allowing cell phones in class. Functional transitions introduce each main idea in the body of the essay and more simplistic internal transitions control the elaboration within the paragraphs. Pacing is generally controlled and paragraphing is generally successful. A conclusion reiterates the writer's opinion and restates the three main points of the essay.

i believe that the rule of "no hats in school should be removed. First of all they say its "gang related" well so are colors, 2nd they say its rude but in reality I talk to people all the time with a hat on, no one has cared, and it can be "a distraction?" that's arguable.

So first off, hats be gang related. Well there's many different ways of showing gang affiliation, like pant leg pulled up on one side, and gang colors. So maybe they should just have everyone where uniforms? I think not. Because they want kids to show there creativity. Hats are a good way of expressing things like pride in where you came, or maybe a sports team and so on.

And next is the issue of it being rude. I wear hats all the time outside of school. I have never once had anybody ask me to talk my hat off when I'm talking to them. Now I understand in certain instances it may be apropiate, like when your talking to a higher authority community figure, but lets be honest, most teachers don't care if students wore a hat.

And as far as a distraction goes, will anything can be a distraction. So we should take away pencils, and paper, and well pretty much everything then right? i believ with all the drugs, and illegal activity that goes on, hats are the least of a schools problem. So why don't we make it easy on everybody and just allow hats in school.

So you see, I don't believe hats are an issue, although the topic is arguable, the facts stand the there not "gang related". Or rude, or even a distraction. There just hats. And they should just be used in there appropriate manner. Maybe it's just a way for the school districts to display power. Well I hope you have seen my point of view, and will consider allowing the usage of hats in school.

Organization: 3

2-3-2-2

The structural development of an introduction, body, and conclusion is present in this response about a no hats rule in school. The functional structure is generally controlled with an introduction that conveys the writer's opinion and the three main points of the essay (even though the third point about it being a distraction is less obvious) and with basic functional transitions that connect each of the main ideas in the same order. A conclusion is evident as the writer restates his opinion, repeats the three main ideas, and makes a general call for action. Pacing is somewhat controlled and paragraphing is generally successful.

I think the principal's committee should think about removing the no cell phone in class policy, because it will make students happy, it'll lower referral rates, and it will also make school more efficient.

It will make students happy, because I never see kids somewhere they can't be angry. Texting in class would just make it way happier. I know texting does this because I have seen how happy people are when they are texting.

There will be less referrals and argument if you just let students text in class. I don't even know how many times of seen quarrels over cell phone usage in class. If you let us text you wouldn't have to send so many kids to the office. That would also be less work the office has to do.

It will make school more efficient because if kids can text they will be happier and there will be less arguments in class thus making the school more efficient. Almost once a week in at least one class we waste up to seven minutes on a kid getting their phone taken away.

The principal's committee should think about removing the no cell phone policy. It will make students happy, lower referral rates, and make classes more efficient.

Organization: 2

2-2-2-2

The structural development of an introduction, body, and conclusion is limited in this response about the no cell phone policy. While a functional organization plan has been attempted, transitions are missing and the pacing is somewhat inconsistent. A weak conclusion simply repeats the introduction.

Student Handbook Revision

I think the student handbook is an unused piece of literature. I have not seen girls checked for the length of skirts or shorts in several years, even though the handbook stresses that the lengths be long enough. It doesn't matter what rules you add to the handbook if no one is going to enforce the rules, does it?

No backpacks in class are something I believe should be removed from the current handbook. This rule was intended to prevent weapons from entering the classrooms. Teachers only enforce this rule on the good students, while the students that are most likely to bring a weapon to school, or have threatened to kill everyone in the school before, are left alone. The teachers claim they don't want to cause an incident with the students.

I think random searches of locker and of a person should be added to the handbook. I know for a fact a handful of students carry tobacco and or drugs with them into class, or have them in their locker. That is something that could easily be done by the administration, once a month.

Students should also be held more accountable for their respect toward teachers. I believe my school is very lenient about student behavior in that category. There is one specific student who will curse and yell at a teacher for not giving him the answers, and yet the teachers brush it off and do nothing about it. Personally I believe that the handbook is mostly fine, except for a few changes. Most of the problem is the teachers enforcing the handbook. Students shouldn't be exempt from certain rules because they are athletes or ADHD. I believe everyone should be handled the exact same way.

Dress code is also something that needs to be amended. If it isn't going to be enforced either, then remove it from the handbook. It has no point being there if nothing is going to be done about it. Enforce the rule, I don't really enjoy seeing fifth graders wearing Daisy Duke shorts, it is disgusting.

Organization: 2

2-2-3-3

The structural development of an introduction, body, and conclusion is limited in this response. The lack of an introduction or conclusion causes some confusion to the reader, since the central idea of the essay has not been made clear. Each paragraph simply addresses a different aspect of the student handbook, and missing transitions do not connect these ideas together. The five paragraphs could be rearranged in any order without affecting the overall effectiveness of the essay. The pacing is inconsistent and the paragraphing is ineffective.

Cell phones should be allowed to be used at all times in school. The main argument against this policy is that when using a cell phone that person is distracting the people around you. If the phone is on silent and doesn't make any noise this could not be the case. The other people should be focused enough to not be distracted. There is no way that one person could distract the class by the use of a cell phone. There has been countless times that my parents have needed to reach me but they couldn't because of the schools cell phone policy. Also teachers shouldn't care if the students don't pay attention because the students are only hurting themselves. They have the right to fail and there is nothing that the teachers can do that would take that away. Schools need to move along with the times and come into the era that we are currently living in. Cell phones are a huge part of this generation as well as other technology that is being outlawed this second in schools all across the country. Teachers say that if your parents need to get ahold of you they can call the office and then they will take the call and send someone to your class to get you to answer the phone and then hold the conversation with your parent. That would take way too long if there was an actual emergency. By the time the person got onto the phone the worst would have already happened. That would just be ridiculous. parents need to be in constant contact with their sons/daughters. My parents want to know where i am at all times and if they don't they just absolutely freak out. they worry about me and they are very protective of me and they have every right to be that way just as a kid has every right to have their form of technology with them during a very long and boring school day. i think i would go insane if i couldn't use my phone during the whole day while i am at a place that i don't want to be at all. there is a million places that i would rather be than school and with out a phone it would even be worse. sometimes people need a break from all of the chaos and should just relax a little bit. there is nothing wrong with having a cell phone in school. this is purely for a worst case scenario.

Organization: 1

2-1-2-2

The structural development of an introduction, body, and conclusion is lacking in this response. Ideas are randomly presented without transitions to connect the ideas. Pacing is awkward and the paragraphing is ineffective.

I believe that the rule that you get suspended for fighting is stupid and needs to be removed. Fighting happens everyday and cannot be stoped. When people get suspended they just want to get in another fight because their last one got broken up which would just lead them to get suspended again. If they get suspended to many times then they will have to much free time and could start doing meth and could overdose and kill them selves.

Organization: 1

1-1-1-1

The structural development of an introduction, body, and conclusion is lacking in this brief response about being suspended for fighting. Pacing is awkward as a list of a few somewhat random thoughts is presented. The ideas are not organized and transitions are lacking. Paragraphing is ineffective.

Voice / Word Choice

As a student here at [redacted] I expect to have rules that are clear, concise, and fair to all other students. There are many rules that I agree with, some that I abide by but don't really think are necessary, and a few others that I think need to be enforced more. As the spring carries on, the weather is getting hotter, and more and more students are wearing less and less clothing. The one rule I think needs to be changed is the dress code, and that it should include the banning of ridiculously short shorts/skirts, the belly showing, the cleavage showing, and most of all, the guys who sag their shorts so their boxers are all hanging out.

I know that we have a dress code that includes a few of these things, along with not being able to wear hats or hoods, but I don't see it being enforced on a daily basis. The shorts that some girls wear these days are ridiculous. They should be classified as underwear, because you can usually see their bottom. If the dress code was enforced more, more girls would have to cover up, and it would be less disturbing to the rest of the student body and faculty members. I think it would prevent, or at least help with the derogatory comments that are made towards these girls who show themselves off. It usually happens on a daily basis where I see a few of the same girls who are wearing low cut shirts that you can see down. I know that most people here don't want to see that, and if the dress code was enforced then we would not have to. The belly showing is another issue, especially with some of the people who wear clothes that do not exactly fit them. I think that whenever an administrator or another staff member sees this rule being violated, they should stop the person and inform them that what they are wearing is inappropriate. The more people who enforce this, the more effective it will be.

Another thing that bothers me, and definitely a lot of other students, is the boys who sag their jeans. I personally don't want to see their underwear, and it's disturbing when I have to on a regular basis. You don't see girls walking around with their jeans around their thighs and their underwear all up in everybody's business, so it isn't fair that we let the men do that. Not only is it disturbing, but also a nuisance the people walking in the hallways. These men have to walk really slow and really carefully so that their pants don't fall completely to the floor, and that in itself makes it hard for other students to walk through the halls without getting caught behind someone who can't walk at a normal speed for the fear of losing their jeans. I've been borderline late to class more than a few times because of slow men with sagging jeans walking in front of me.

With the enforcement of this rule, it will not only solve the problem of disturbing images, but it will do a better job at making everyone seem more equal. I look up to the students who attend private schools that have a school uniform, because they all wear the same thing every day and nobody gets called out on looking "trampy". Now, I think that enforcing school uniforms at a public school like ours would be a little too far, but the point is that if we enforce a more strict dress code, it will give off some of the same effects. Students will be looked upon with more equality, and they will hopefully be treated with greater respect now that their stomachs and cleavage aren't all over the place.

The dress code is one of the most important things about a school. Whether or not we students abide by the rule, it's up to the staff members to enforce it. If the dress code was enforced on a daily basis, it would help with the derogatory comments made towards the girls, the slow walking boys with sagging jeans that makes people late to class, and the amount of respect that we show each other based on what the other is wearing. I don't think that this idea is very crazy, absurd, or unnecessary, rather I think it will benefit our school and make it the great place that we all think it should be.

Voice/Word Choice: 4

4-4-4-4

The writer demonstrates a strong commitment to the idea that the school dress code should be enforced on a daily basis. The language is precise, varied, and engaging throughout the essay. A strong, persuasive voice is well-suited for the purpose of convincing the principal's committee to accept the recommendation. The writer consistently anticipates the reader's questions and clearly explains the need to enforce the dress code rules.

The student handbook states that all cell phones must be off and out of sight during classes. However, this rule is not followed very closely by students. I believe that this rule should be changed due to failure to comply by an outstanding number of students. Given the circumstances, I think that the rule should be changed so that students have to check their phones in to their teacher when they get into class. I feel like overall, this policy would help students to have greater success in school.

Cell phones have become an addiction to a majority of teenagers. I once had a substitute tell me that teenagers who text a lot have a higher risk of participating in risky drug and/or sexual related activities. He went on to explain that when many people receive a text message it makes them feel good, because the brain releases dopamine; just like it does when we eat, have sex, or do certain drugs. So, if dopamine is being released in somebody's brain whenever they get a text, then their brain will associate getting a text with feeling good. That is why many people can become addicted to their phones, and that is why it is really difficult to get students to follow the rules of keeping their cell phones off and out of sight.

I am one of the students that use their phone during class. I also believe that I am addicted to my cell phone. I feel that gives me greater credibility to say that we shouldn't even be allowed to have our phones during class. My phone distracts me greatly while I am in class, and I have recognized that because of my phone, I do not encode as much information or get as much done as I would be able to if I didn't have my phone at all.

To enforce this rule, teachers would stand at the door before each class and collect the phones from their students as they walked in. At the end of the class, a few minutes before the bell rings, the students when then be allowed to go retrieve their phone from the teacher. That way students could use their phones during passing periods and at lunch.

If the rule was changed so that students couldn't have their phones during class at all, then I think that they would be able to focus much more. I know that when I have my phone off or on silent that I can get so much more done, because I won't be checking my phone each time it lights up or vibrates. Without cell phones so close at hand, students would be less distracted by a dopamine rush each time they receive a message. Thus giving us a better chance of encoding information, getting work done, and overall doing well in school.

Voice/Word Choice: 4

3-3-4-4

The writer demonstrates a strong commitment to the belief that the cell phone rule needs to be changed. A strong scientific language that seems precise and specific is effective and engaging throughout. The intelligent, seemingly well-informed voice is convincing. The writer consistently anticipates the reader's questions.

Our school has recently formed a group of students to help revise the handbook. The decision the students have decided needs attention in our handbook is cell phones. Students use cell phones for more than just texting their friends that are in other schools.

Some students in class need more explanation than the teachers are willing to give. Every student learns differently some are verbal learners, while others learn better when they see it done. If students were allowed to use their phones in class some students may see their grades increasing, because they can get help online from tutors more than in class when a teacher has to divide his or her attention to a class of say thirty students.

During the day things change while students are in class and while their parents are working. So when asking if a student can use a teacher incorporated phone the teacher often replies with a simple no. For various reasons I am sure...it's a disruption to the class, it is taking your focus away from your schooling, and there is other things you could be doing that is more useful with your time.

When parents call the school to speak with their children the secretaries often answer the phone calls. As a parent asks to speak with their children for a reason unknown, the answer they often receive is "No your child is in class. Why don't you text them? That way your child is sure to get your message." That is not an acceptable answer that should be given to a parent. Then there are the times throughout the day where there is no one in the office at all times so the phones just ring and ring, while the parents are left to leave a message on a machine that won't even be listened to until the school day is over. If students were allowed to have access to their phones throughout the day people that need to get into contact with the students could. Students could check or use there phones for other purposes than help with homework would only be allowed if they were done with their homework.

If the school administration would consider all of these details with an open mind they would see it clearly, as all of the students do. Allowing students to use their cell phones in school doesn't have to be a bad thing...it doesn't have to be abused to the point of termination. Overall the use of cell phones could have its advantages in more ways than one!

Voice/Word Choice: 3

3-3-3-3

The writer demonstrates a general commitment to the idea of allowing cell phones in school. While the voice is appropriate for the purpose, it is not particularly persuasive or convincing in tone. The language is generally specific and precise but not particularly engaging throughout. The writer has generally anticipated the reader's questions while simply pointing out some of the advantages of having cell phones in school.

There are many rules in the student handbook that I would change. But there are some that I think are most important to change. They are that students cannot eat during class, electrical devices are not allowed during class, sleeping, and clothing regulations. I do know the importance of having these rules in place. They keep from the students being distracted while the teacher is teaching. But being a student, I know many of other students do it anyway. I am able to see more than the teacher, hence I choose the seat in the back. I choose the back seat knowing that the teacher has a harder time seeing what I am doing. I could look like I am taking notes and paying attention, but really I am on my phone texting or playing on my ipod and listening to music. So there are some points that I want to bring to your attention that I think you should know.

Students love to sleep. They need it the most. Most have jobs that have them work till 11:30pm and they don't get to bed till 12:30am. Leaving them only a maximum of 6 hours to sleep for most have an alarm clock set to ring at 6:30am. School starts at 7:57am. I get up at 6:30am. I work at Dairy Queen. I work mostly from 5pm to close, which is normally 10:30pm. It takes me awhile to clean up. I get to leave the store around 11:30pm. Its a 10-15 minute drive for me to get home, depending on the traffic. Then I have to take a shower, get ready for bed, and wind up switching my light off around 12:30am. That gives me around 6 hours of sleep. The minimum of required amount of sleep. Just to get up and do it again the next day. I am very tired in the morning. I am even more tired at school. I wind up sleeping in some of my classes. This is not good for obvious reasons. So if you could possibly change the time school starts to a later time, I bet you would see many more students showing up for school and getting better grades. I heard somewhere that schools that started later in the day have students that get better grades and have a better attendance record.

Cell phones play a big role in students' lives. They have changed many. I cannot leave my house without mine. I always have it with me. I have it to text and listen to music mostly. I am lost without it. And when a teacher catches me with it out during a class and takes it away, I get very mad and start hating that teacher. So I find a

better way of hiding it from them. Lesson is that, no matter how many times they take it away, teens will always find a way to get past something. Take the Internet for example. The school blocks most of the websites so students cant get on them. But, they found a way to get around the block by adding a letter to the URL. And now we are able to get onto Facebook, YouTube, and other websites that are blocked. So letting the students use their cell phones and iPods and letting them get onto websites will reduce the amount of referrals and fights between students and teachers. I do understand the importance of having that rule to ensure the attention to the lesson, but students are going to do it anyway. So why not just get rid of it.

Voice/Word Choice: 3

2-2-3-3

The writer demonstrates a general commitment to the topic of cell phones and a later start time in school. The voice is generally appropriate for the purpose but is not particularly persuasive or convincing. The language is also generally specific and somewhat varied, but not engaging throughout. The writer has generally anticipated some of the reader's questions.

I think that students should be able to use their phones and other electronic devices in class. I text in my classes all the time, I still focus in class and get stuff done, but sometimes I need to text my recruiter to ask him about important things. If students don't pay attention in class that is their fault. Everyone would be more inclined to actually focus more on the subject other than focusing on trying not to get caught. The punishment for using the phone is taking it from the students until the end of the day. Most students get mad at it, and throw a fit, or one student I know just leaves the class. If he would be able to text he would stay in the class and learn. And what if the student needs to contact their parents right away the quickest way would be from their cellphones, not calling the office, then waiting for the office to send someone down to get the student, then walk back to the office. All that just to use a phone. Instead the parent could just text the student and it would be over with instead of pulling the student out of class for about 10 minutes. I can understand in some situations that phones shouldn't be allowed, but only like during tests so students don't send answers to one another, or while taking NeSA tests with multiple choice. A test like this however should be fine to text, because there really isn't anyway to cheat on this paper. Another thing students should be able to use is Ipod's and MP3 players. When the teacher gives work time on assignments and stuff, students like to listen to music, so they can focus on what they need to do. So they aren't getting distracted by other noises. Listening to music helps you think also so you can do the work correctly. Just during direct instruction the students wouldn't be able to listen to it. This is why I think students should be able to use their phone.

Voice/Word Choice: 2

2-2-2-2

The writer demonstrates a limited commitment to the topic of being able to use electronic devices in school. The language is only occasionally specific, precise and engaging. The voice is not particularly persuasive and the writer even seems to contradict himself at times. The writer anticipates few of the reader's questions.

Rules you see them being follow or broken, Rules like "Put your ID on, another one would be cell phones away or give it to me. Now I get my chance to change a rule, cool. The rule would be the dress code rule because us teenagers like to express our personalities, the weather changing, and lastly and it makes us pretty.

Teenager or people in general like to wear the clothes that express who they are. When my aunt buys clothes for Jennifer and me, she looks that clothes that fits our personalities and that sometimes she would find clothes that she thinks that we would like.

With the weather changing and the days are getting hotter. I think we should be allowed to wear what we thinks is a comfortable. One time there was a girl in my class she was wearing pants practically underwear the teachers didn't say anything but there was another girl who was only wearing a tank top and was told to go to the office.

Some people like to wear what the want so they can look pretty and feel pretty. Some girls would rather come to school pretty than ugly. The clothes can make a person feel confidence in them.

That is why I think that there should be less strict in the dress code rule. The teenagers like express themselves, comfortable and with the weather changing, and lastly to make them pretty.

Voice/Word Choice: 2

2-2-2-2

The writer demonstrates a limited commitment to the topic of a dress code rule. The language is only occasionally specific and varied. An attempt at a persuasive voice is evident, but it is not appropriate to the audience. The writer anticipates few of the reader's questions.

Today our school is revising the hand book and are asking for recommendation. They want to know if the students want to add, change, or remove a rule. I'm going to talk about changing the cell phone rule, the book bag rule, and the shorts rule.

First I'm going to talk about the cell phone rule. I think we should be able to use them at lunch. We should be able to use them because we're not in class and it our free time. But we should not be able to use them in class.

Now I'm going to talk about the book bag rule. I think that we should be able to have them in class. We should be able to have them in class because we wouldn't have to go to our locker every time we need something. But if one person can't have a bag know one should be able to.

Last I'm going to talk about the shorts rule. Students should be able to were an kind of shorts. They would only get in truble if it was showing unaproperiat body parts

Here are my recommendations for the school hand book. I don't know if they will be added or not. What do you think about them.

Voice/Word Choice: 1

2-2-1-2

The writer demonstrates little commitment to the topic. The language is somewhat simplistic and repetitive and the writer mostly fails to anticipate the reader's questions. The voice is inappropriate for the purpose.

I believe that the rule that you get suspended for fighting is stupid and needs to be removed. Fighting happens everyday and cannot be stoped. When people get suspended they just want to get in another fight because their last one got broken up which would just lead them to get suspended again. If they get suspended to many times then they will have to much free time and could start doing meth and could overdose and kill them selves.

Voice/Word Choice: 1

1-1-1-1

The writer demonstrates little commitment to the topic of being suspended for fighting. The voice is inappropriate for the purpose and audience. Language is not precise, varied nor engaging. The writer fails to anticipate the reader's questions.

Sentence Fluency / Conventions

As a student here at [REDACTED], I expect to have rules that are clear, concise, and fair to all other students. There are many rules that I agree with, some that I abide by but don't really think are necessary, and a few others that I think need to be enforced more. As the spring carries on, the weather is getting hotter, and more and more students are wearing less and less clothing. The one rule I think needs to be changed is the dress code, and that it should include the banning of ridiculously short shorts/skirts, the belly showing, the cleavage showing, and most of all, the guys who sag their shorts so their boxers are all hanging out.

I know that we have a dress code that includes a few of these things, along with not being able to wear hats or hoods, but I don't see it being enforced on a daily basis. The shorts that some girls wear these days are ridiculous. They should be classified as underwear, because you can usually see their bottom. If the dress code was enforced more, more girls would have to cover up, and it would be less disturbing to the rest of the student body and faculty members. I think it would prevent, or at least help with the derogatory comments that are made towards these girls who show themselves off. It usually happens on a daily basis where I see a few of the same girls who are wearing low cut shirts that you can see down. I know that most people here don't want to see that, and if the dress code was enforced then we would not have to. The belly showing is another issue, especially with some of the people who wear clothes that do not exactly fit them. I think that whenever an administrator or another staff member sees this rule being violated, they should stop the person and inform them that what they are wearing is inappropriate. The more people who enforce this, the more effective it will be.

Another thing that bothers me, and definitely a lot of other students, is the boys who sag their jeans. I personally don't want to see their underwear, and it's disturbing when I have to on a regular basis. You don't see girls walking around with their jeans around their thighs and their underwear all up in everybody's business, so it isn't fair that we let the men do that. Not only is it disturbing, but also a nuisance the people walking in the hallways. These men have to walk really slow and really carefully so that their pants don't fall completely to the floor, and that in itself makes it hard for other students to walk through the halls without getting caught behind someone who can't walk at a normal speed for the fear of losing their jeans. I've been borderline late to class more than a few times because of slow men with sagging jeans walking in front of me.

With the enforcement of this rule, it will not only solve the problem of disturbing images, but it will do a better job at making everyone seem more equal. I look up to the students who attend private schools that have a school uniform, because they all wear the same thing every day and nobody gets called out on looking "trampy". Now, I think that enforcing school uniforms at a public school like ours would be a little too far, but the point is that if we enforce a more strict dress code, it will give off some of the same effects. Students will be looked upon with more equality, and they will hopefully be treated with greater respect now that their stomachs and cleavage aren't all over the place.

The dress code is one of the most important things about a school. Whether or not we students abide by the rule, it's up to the staff members to enforce it. If the dress code was enforced on a daily basis, it would help with the derogatory comments made towards the girls, the slow walking boys with sagging jeans that makes people late to class, and the amount of respect that we show each other based on what the other is wearing. I don't think that this idea is very crazy, absurd, or unnecessary, rather I think it will benefit our school and make it the great place that we all think it should be.

Dear Dr. S

I have recently noticed a significant increase in student tardies during the school day. As the year quickly comes to a close, more and more teens have started taking longer passing periods between classes and enjoying an extended lunch, waltzing into class late, disrupting other studious peers, and distracting the teachers from doing their job. The biggest problem with these interrupt is the lack of consequences for the tardy student. Not only are they not taking their own education seriously, but their actions are interfering with the other students' learning. In order to fulfill our potential as a school, this irresponsible behavior needs to be disciplined. I have a suggestion that could prospectively raise the rates of on-time attendance at North Star High School.

Say a student decides to take their sweet time going out for food during lunch. With our so-called "tardy policy" that's currently in place, this teen could easily return when they felt like it and join the middle of their scheduled class during an important part of the lesson. But, instead of having to deal with the repercussions for their choice, they are instead allowed to carry on about their business with as little as a warning from most teachers. How, might I ask you, is this supposed to stop the students from repeating this action daily? I believe that instead of this mundane attempt to curtail tardiness, we could implement a rule that would surely eradicate this misconduct.

First, the main entrance to the school would have to remain unlocked from the outside so that the student would be able to enter the building. But it would need to be configured so that said late student wouldn't be able to leave the building until the current class ends. Then doors to classrooms should be locked as well, because this student shouldn't be allowed to disrupt the learning of their peers by attending the class late. So, doors locked, nowhere to go, the student is forced to sit in the bayou and wait for the next class to begin. Typically, this would be an invitation for the tardy teen to take a nap, but with my new idea for a late policy, I am quite sure that this student wouldn't dare risk being late again. After the doors are locked, that's when we would release seemingly wild animals into the main part of the school.

Obviously, I understand that these animals would need to be tamed first, as to not cause any damage to the school or the students/faculty. But the students wouldn't need to know that the creatures aren't wild. Wolves, snakes, tarantulas, and possibly a jungle cat or bear would be free to roam the halls and chase the late student around for a good forty-five minutes before the next class begins. Any late students would be forced to run from these "dangerous" animals in order to keep themselves from harm. I can guarantee that this activity would spark a decrease in overall tardiness at our school. The students would be so frightened that they would certainly make a better attempt at being on time to their classes next time. Plus, not only would this policy raise our attendance, it would be a good source of physical activity as well. The tardy students would be able to learn a lesson about punctuality while also receiving a decent workout.

You may be uncertain about the addition because of the possible dangers that having large, poisonous, or vicious animals would pose at our high school. But please, do not worry. These animals, many of which would have been born and raised by humans in captivity, can be easily trained. You can teach a wolf to chase these teens without the students ever being in danger of injury. The best part is that the students would think that they have to run from the animals to save themselves, when in reality they aren't ever in harms way. They would be none the wiser.

Sentence Fluency / Conventions: 4

3-3-3-4

Sentences vary in length and structure throughout this somewhat amusing response about the school tardy policy. Phrasing consistently sounds natural and conveys meaning. Grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling are consistently correct.

Our student handbook has guidelines that are set up to help students succeed and do their best. Everyone must read over the handbook and sign the last page that tells the administration that the students agree to all of the rules and guidelines for the upcoming school year. In my opinion, the handbook could be revised in a couple of ways to further benefit students. Students who do not turn in their assignments are required to come in for an access period of fifteen minutes to finish their assignment, which isn't much of a punishment for not turning in their assignment. Another rule that could be revised is the cell phone rule; If teachers see or hear a cell phone during school, the student gets his or her cell phone taken away. There are a few cases in which cell phones go off on accident and students get in trouble. I feel that making changes in the handbook for this school year is vital.

Many students work very hard on their schoolwork, they are reliable and always turn their assignments in on time. There is always a handful of students that don't turn their assignments in on time and it seems that access period is not much of an incentive to turn their assignments in on time. I understand that once in a while a student might not get the assignment done on time, but not every day. I think that students should be able to turn in two late assignments all year and every late assignment after that is a detention. A detention may seem drastic, but it isn't fair that some kids get to turn in their assignments whenever they get it done with little punishment, and the reliable students have to turn the assignments in on time with no reward. The students who turn in their assignments on time all year in every class should be rewarded with a day off from school at the end of the year.

I understand that school is a place to learn and that we are privileged enough to attend school; Students should not be using cell phones during school. I think that the rule, at times, is unjust. Students who are using their phone are going to make sure their phone is on silent or vibrate, so when a student's phone goes off on a ringtone, in a way that should tell the teacher he or she wasn't using their phone and it was just an accident. The rule should be changed so that if the teacher sees a student using their phone, that is when a detention should be issued.

The student handbook is very useful and helps students succeed and prepare for college, but some of the rules could be touched up a little bit. Making these changes would greatly benefit students in the long run. I'm sure students will complain about getting a detention for not turning their assignments in, but that is their own fault. I hope you take my ideas into consideration.

Our school has set a hand book with many rules for our school. Some are very reasonable and good that they are in there but some of the others should not even be close to being put in the hand book but for some reason they put it in the book. The rule that I think should be taken out of the hand book is the sweatshirt with not zip up and one wide pocket policy because we should be able to wear them in school. They have no reason to be put on the hand book because it's just a simple sweatshirt that keeps us warm, and they shouldn't assume that people are going to be carrying stuff illegal in the pocket.

First, it is simply a sweatshirt that helps with keeping you warm. A lot of kids in our school have hoodies that we would like to wear and we bought with our own money but if we wear it to school we will get told by the teachers to take them off for no reason. Some kids might only own a hoodie instead of one without a zipper or a coat to wear in school so therefore the kid could be cold maybe even sick and not be able to fix that because we cannot wear them. We are just wearing them to have clothes. When an incident happens in a state far from us and a different school doesn't mean that the whole country has to put protection laws and ban hoodies from schools. The guy who killed the teenager does not live anywhere else and I would assume that all the gangs in California walk around and no police men and regular people there shoot them just because they are wearing a hoodie.

Second, most kids wear hoodies to put their hands in the front pocket but if we do that the school staff mostly assumes that we have something were not supposed to have in school in our pocket which is ridiculous because it's a pretty good pocket to put pencils, calculators, money, your lunch card your planner, and some food but we have to store it in our locker and go back every passing time to get something new. We should be able to wear them because if you have something in there that is

dangerous or illegal you can see it bulging out in the pocket and should be able to identify what the item is.

Last, the pockets on the hoodies are made mostly to put your hands in there to keep them a little warm or hold your cell phone inside the pocket just for easy reach. The teachers assume that we are going to be texting other people with our cell phones because it's right there in front of our lap, we mostly put them there just to be safe if our family has to get a hold of us for something very important or just in case we got a reminder on there to remind you what homework or what you have due that day.

Ultimately, all schools that have the hoodie policy banned from your school should protest and schedule a meeting for the school board to tell them how unfair the hoodie law is because it's only clothing and we buy it with our money to wear around, teachers assume that there is possibly an illegal item in your pocket, and the use of having our cell phone in the pocket just in case your family has an emergency or you need to see what is due in school for it.

Sentence Fluency / Conventions: 3

3-3-3-3

Sentences generally vary in length and structure in this response. Phrasing generally sounds natural. Grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling are usually correct. A few errors and awkward sentences do not distract the reader.

Dear Committee and Principle I would like to recommend that we could change one of the rules in our handbook. I would like to change the hat rule to a point but it would be purely on a good bases. I'm a kid from a petite school in the middle of nowhere. I came from a big school where we were hats all the time and in all the classes but it seem to be different at this school. It is driving me insane. So I came up an idea for you guys and gals to ponder about.

What if it was based on grades, if you have grades about an F you are allowed to wear a hat but which is school appropriate. Which mean no beer, drugs, gang related, or form of prostitution and if you do not have good grades you can't wear them. So it is like a privilege to wear them. Now if kids do not listen to this rule you can give them detentions per say they wear the hat and have an F instant detention without any second thoughts because they know the rules, but remember if you change this rule to stress in bold letters that you have to have your eyes in crystal clear sight when you are looking at a teacher.

What if you have cancer or lice and you have to lose all of you hair what are you going to do if you are a girl and is ashamed of it. You are allowed to wear a hat even if you have an F but till you get enough hair to look normal but she has to have a written note from a doctor.

And the final thing to say is what if you are religious you have to wear a beanie on every Friday because it is your practice. It would be allowed and you wouldn't get harassed about it because everyone would be wearing a hat that has decent grades.

Now that we have three main topics would you at least think about what I had to say, I would really appreciate it if you would allow this rule to be changed in the book

because the people with cancer, lice, kids from bigger cities, and children with passing grades would really enjoy this treat that you could bestow on them.

Sentence Fluency / Conventions: 2

3-2-2-2

Sentences occasionally vary in length and structure in this response. Phrasing occasionally sounds natural. Run-on sentences sometimes cause confusion. Grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling errors may distract the reader.

I want to change some rules in [REDACTED]. Here are some rules that I would change schedules, lunchtime, after school homework zone with assistants . I want to change the schedules of North Star. I want Lincoln North Star start the school at start at 10:30 it's because students will be well rested and ready to learn. I also want o change the lunch time because I heard a lot of complaining about the lunch. I think we should have longer lunch time because student will happier. If they're happy they will have more energy and if they have a lot of energy the will work hard. If we have after school homework zone with assistants the students will do their homework and they will understand more about the homework if the assistants explain them.

Sentence Fluency / Conventions: 2

2-1-1-2

Sentences occasionally vary in length and structure in this response. Phrasing occasionally sounds natural. Run-ons are sometimes confusing to the reader. Some grammar, usage, and punctuation errors may cause distraction to the reader.

We should have off school campus lunch because some people do not like being here for lunch all the time. I understand that is free for some people and other people have to pay a lot of money just to eat lunch here. So I like it would be easy to eat lunch somewhere else it can be at your house, the store, or the restaurant. It is still in town and closer to the school and it wouldn't take that long we have lunch for 30 minutes a day I like we can be back before then.

If we aren't in the door by the time we get out of lunch we will know what would happen if we are late to class. If we are late to class you should get used to being in trouble for all of us so if we get into trouble we will have no more off school campus and if we are on time I like we will be okay until we mess up so I like we should do it because it is cheaper and we won't have to spend that much money on the school food but I am not saying that the food here is expensive because it is not but most kids want to go home and eat lunch there or at a restaurant, or the school lunch here.

You know that I understand why most schools don't have off school campus lunch it is that most people goof off and do things that they should not do but schools are different because we don't goof off or anything like that. This is why we don't do that in this small town any other thing will happen but everybody is nobody's own what is going on in this town and the school so I like it will be a good thing to have this for use kids and anybody else. I like we can handle the off school campus lunch.

Sentence Fluency / Conventions: 1

2-2-1-1

Numerous grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling errors distract the reader throughout this response. Sentences seldom vary in length and structure and numerous run-ons confuse the reader. Phrasing sounds awkward and unnatural.

Rules to change or add to school

School has a lot of rule. They make then to student learn and have a behavior. I think that rules are a good thing but most of them they aren't because student will not followed then. Like how dress code is really sometimes dumb.

Like how some girls dress up really inappropriate to school. For example how they show their 3 B's. I think they look too not for school style because they just show too much of what they have. Like wearing shorts too school can be good to girls to wear but they don't have to be too short that we could see their butts.

But for guys aren't that mad because they don't have what girls have unless they wear weird cloth. I don't really have anything against boy of their clothing because it less appropriate.

Sometimes wearing weird cloth can be really acquired for some people. Like how they can call racist to what or how they wear. Like how some guys wear their pants down their butt and some people think they are in a gang. Or if they have tattoos on their body they think they are in a gang. But for girls if they dress like showing their 3 B's some people think they are those who work on streets. And if they show too much they think they are no ones to be with.

I think dress code can be sometime weird or sometimes in all different ways. Depends on how that person is. That how rumors go every were of who you dress up.

Sentence Fluency / Conventions: 1

1-2-2-1

Sentences seldom vary in length and structure in this response. Phrasing sounds awkward and unnatural. Run-ons and fragments cause confusion, and numerous grammar, usage, and punctuation, errors throughout the response distract the reader.