

A "F" Sample

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

Essay Test

There are many kinds of bullies and many bullies in schools. Schools need to do more and society needs to pass laws.

Schools should do more. At school you see bullies pick on kids every day. Who haven't done anything. Some are fat. Or some are not strong like the bullies. And if you fight the bullies, you get in trouble just like they do. Daniel Weddle talks about this in his essay. A student can't do anything because they don't have any choices. They just stop caring. And bullies get away with it. Schools should do more about it. So students feel safe.

Society needs to pass laws. People just accept it.. Like it's normal. Teachers don't do anything to stop it most of the time. Daniel Weddle says "they are seldom held responsible." Laws should increase security guards in schools and bullies should get suspended. I had a friend who was picked on by bullies. The teachers didn't do anything. He just said leave me alone. I'm not doing anything to you. The bullies didn't care. Just kept it up. Pretty soon he couldn't stand it. He brought a knife to school. But he's the one who got in trouble. Not the bully. They have a zero tolerance rule so he got expelled. The teachers need to be "held responsible" just like Daniel Weddle says (1). Then society will be safer.

Bullies need to suffer like the students they harass. Schools don't do anything so bullies get away with it. So we should pass new laws.

Commentary on the "F" Sample

Paragraph One: The essay begins with a pointless, general, obvious, and dull statement, and the thesis is vague. What "more" should schools do? What sorts of laws? Which agency of "society" should pass these laws, the state or federal government?

Paragraph Two: The topic sentence merely repeats the vague thesis statement about "doing more." The writer does begin to discuss the bullying problem at school, but does not specifically explain points such as why "you get in trouble just like they do." The writer mentions Daniel Weddle, but neither quotes nor paraphrases any specific statements. The sentences are nearly all short, choppy word units, including a sentence fragment. There are also minor errors in spelling ("bullies" and "caring") and pronoun reference ("A student...they").

Paragraph Three: The topic sentence once again simply repeats the vague thesis wording. Then the writer strays from the point, making unexplained statements about “people” accepting bullying as “normal.” The writer does move back toward the point of the topic sentence with the statement that “teachers don’t do anything to stop it” and the brief quotation from Weddle, but does not explain or comment on the quotation. Instead, the writer goes on to a statement about how “laws should increase security gards [sic] and bulllys [sic] ...should get suspended,” but does not explain how these measures relate to teachers being “held responsible.” The writer then gives an example which seems to relate more to the points of paragraph two than to passing new laws, then ends the paragraph by repeating the statement about teachers and with a vague, general reference to “society” becoming “safer.” The sentences are once again short and choppy, including three fragments. There are also minor errors in spelling (“didnt,” “leeve,” “car,” and “tolarence”) and pronoun reference (“They have a zero tolarance [sic] rule.”). The writer does not cite his reference to Weddle, and Weddle is the only reading reference in the essay.

Paragraph Four: The writer does make some attempt to summarize points, but only briefly and vaguely.

Grammar and Punctuation: The essay demonstrates little sentence variety, transition, or knowledge of punctuation. There are four major sentence errors and numerous minor errors. Coupled with the problems of vagueness and paragraph organization, all teachers polled agreed this essay is a clear fail.