Four Sample Student Papers

The following four papers are student research papers. Using the Department of English Goals and Objectives for writing, assess each paper and be prepared to discuss your assessment. It might help for you to know that the assignment asked students to develop an argument on a specific topic. The argument was to be about 2,000 words and documented in proper MLA format.

Rubric and Outcomes

WRITING OUTCOMES: In the composition sequence of AEGL 101 and AEGL 102, students will demonstrate the following skills in written communication:

- **Clarity of Purpose**: Students will demonstrate the ability to establish a clear purpose (thesis or announced intent) and an appropriate awareness of audience (reader).
- **Quality of Thought**: Students will demonstrate a level of rational thought that recognizes and examines complexity of ideas and is supported by credible and logical evidence.
- **Effective Organization of Content**: Students will demonstrate unity and coherence, and demonstrate effective arrangement of content, all in the appropriate support of purpose.
- **Use of Sources**: Students will demonstrate correct and effective use of sources with clear attribution and accurate documentation.
- **Language and Style**: Students will demonstrate the ability to make stylistic choices in vocabulary, diction, and syntax.
- **Grammar and Mechanics**: Students will demonstrate competence in grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling.

Paper #1
“Foreign Athletic Limits”
Grade: 
Explanation: 

Paper #2
“Online College vs. Online High School”
Grade: 
Explanation: 

Paper #3
“Predisposed to Divorce”
Grade: 
Explanation: 

Paper #4
“NAACP Case Against Gun Manufacturers”
Grade: 
Explanation:
Foreign Athletic Limits

In the United States there are foreign students coming to universities not only for educational benefits. It seems that there are more foreign students getting involved with American athletic department at universities across the nation. There is always the question of whether these students are taking away opportunities for American athletes. Foreign students are also taking away valuable scholarships from American athletes. American universities should set a fifty percentage limit on how many foreign athletes they accept to participate on each sport’s roster, and they should have a better chance of playing before foreign student athletes.

American athletes should have a right to play for American universities before foreigners. It is wrong for them to come over to our country and take other athlete’s spots on American rosters. American college students should have the right to be accepted into a college before foreign athletes also. The United States is a country known for freedom, but freedom does not necessarily mean being fair also. Many American students spend many years trying to reach perfection in sport to get scholarships Foreign athletes should not make up more than 50% of a sport’s roster. According to Hoffer, “33 out of 64 students were foreign” and “foreign athletes comprise nearly half or more teams rosters” (46). Some critics agree that there should be limits on foreign students when it comes to athletics. One critic states, “there are also those who believe that scholarships for foreign athletes should be limited to create more opportunities for American athletes” (McNamara 10). In all fairness and equality within athletic sports, it is a known privilege that an American student is given the opportunity to take these positions over a foreign student.
American is known throughout the world as being a free country. Many people from other countries immigrate to the U.S. to obtain a better life. Some critics say that when it comes to giving foreign student athletes more opportunities to play sports in the U.S., whether or not coaches and recruiters are aware of this, he states that, “as much as you’d like to give opportunity to some people to better their lives, at some point you’ve taken away opportunities from other kids” (miller 4). This can be taken away privileges from American student athletes. Due to these facts, foreign students believe they can achieve better education at a prestigious American university. According to Wingert, “more and more international athletes come to the United States to go to college and play” (1). Even though this may be true, foreign student athletes are already receiving acknowledgements for their talents in a sport in their own country. Some critics agree with the fact that foreign students should not take positions over American students. According to Harshman, “we should recognize that they are getting a free education, multimillion dollar pro contracts, and extensive endorsement deals. Some of our athletes are forced to sit on the sidelines and wonder where they would have been if they would have had the same opportunity” (McNamara).

Discussing fairness and opportunities for American athletes are not recognized quite as often as foreign students on honors. A student interviewed by McNamara, Grace Britton, states “some teams in the United States are so filled with foreign athletes that National Championships and player-of-the-year honors are frequently won without any American athletes in sight. I think American should have more opportunity” (McNamara 11). It is for foreign student athletes to come over and take away the opportunities and privileges that American student athletes have the right to obtain first. This is because
they were born citizens of this country. Any acknowledgement of success in a particular sport for an American student is highly looked at rather than foreign students. This is true because foreign students already receive acknowledgement in their own country. It is not fair for these student athletes to become popular out of recognition in the United States and their own country, and not be taken advantage of by a foreign student. These students already have an advantage because they would not have come to America if they were not already popular in their own country.

Foreign athletes are taking away American athlete’s scholarships when they apply to American colleges and universities. It is unfair that foreign athletes get most of the student athletic scholarships over American students. American student should receive these scholarships because they deserve the best opportunities to excel in their won country, America. Some critics agree stating, “we have many student who are not able to attend college at all if not for an athletic scholarships” (McNamara 11). American athletes deserve American scholarships. Foreign athletes, therefore, receive their own scholarships. There can be a compromise when it comes to giving student athletes scholarships. One compromise is presented by the critic Paola; he states “sports scholarships for international student should be mutually beneficial arrangement between the foreign and a U.S. institution” (McNamara 2). If scholarships are equally dispersed between American athletes and foreign athletes, then no team will be made up of a majority of foreign students. Without a majority of one type of student, American or foreign, then national championship titles can be won by not completely underlying the ability of American athletes. This is clearly seen several times and it also is supported by the reasons behind why foreign athletes are recruited more.
Coaches at American universities more often recruit foreign athletes to achieve national championships. What makes these students more eligible to accomplish this rather than American athletes? Some critics like to think that foreign athletes are recruited because “they make teams more competitive or they are easier to recruit?” (Wingert 1). Even though foreign athletes are easier to recruit, they should not be given chances over American students. Foreign athletes are given their own opportunities in their own countries. American coaches’ biggest advantage from recruiting foreign student athletes is trying to win national championship titles. According to Vacek, one coach was singled out because “If he chose not to recruit outside the United States, he would quickly fall to the back of the heat in the race for the NCAA title” (McNamara 2). Basically does this mean that national championships titles cannot be won without foreign student athletes? National means one nation not many nations. Little foreign help should be obtained but not to where a team is completely based on foreign athletes talents and skills.

There should be a rule stating that there should only be a fifty-percentage limit of foreign athletes allowed on one college sport program. Foreign athletes are taking advantage of the opportunities that America is willing to give those concerning athletics. National Championship titles should not be won because of the popularity and skills of foreign athletes. Coaches should look to what players have the best abilities and try to allow more American athletes along with foreign athletes. When recruiting athletes, foreign athletes are easier to recruit than American athletes. This should not be the case; both athletes should have an equal amount of opportunity for recruitment. Universities
should have certain limits on how they can reduce the number of foreign athletes they allow to play on one team’s roster in the U.S.
Work Cited

http://web5.infotrac.galegroup.com/itw/infotrack/908/204/57415017w5/url+rcc;EAIM_....

McNamara, Lance J. “Should the NCAA impose a limit- for example, 50 percent- on the portion of total scholarships available for any sport that can go to foreign athletes?” *JOPERD---The Journal of Physical Education, Recreation & Dance* v67 p10(2): Nov-Dec 1996.  
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Online College vs. Online High School

Education is the longing to succeed in life. Without it, where would our dreams end up? In today’s society completion of college is the launching pad for success. It doesn’t matter if the individual graduates from an online college are actually attending a university,. High school students should not be allowed to attend and complete high school by means of the online-internet. The reason has to do with social issues, peer/adult interaction and individual growth that is associated from being expose to academia.

Online education has had tremendous growth this year. It has gone up 20% this past year (Boser 1). Online college is an excellent development for the society. Now only does it help young college students attain their degree at their own pace, it also assists older adults who may not had the time to attend an actual college campus. A good example is a woman who is in her thirties and decides she wants’ to go back to college and get her degree. There are a few complications in her way. One, she has a husband and two children she has to attend to. Two, she has a full-time job. This scenario does not allow her to have time to attend classes on a college campus. By attending an online college, she would have a sufficient amount of time to be at the needs of her children. And this allows her to work at her own pace.

High school education is important for a teen-ager. This helps people grow and find a group of friends. Going to high school is an experience of life. High school determines whether or not students make the right decisions and attend college. Social interaction with other peers will help that person develop people skills. If a teen-ager is in his or her house doing school work by his or herself instead of communicating with
adults and other peers, how will that student develop any relationship skills. Students should not waste their high school years on the internet taking classes.

High school courses should not be allowed to be taken in the internet because the student is missing out on the classroom setting. In this classroom setting students can develop a relationship where the instructor can determine the student’s strengths and weaknesses. Where as taking online classes the students will never meet the teacher and no relationship will be developed. A classroom setting will also develop a student to student relationship by assisting each other in time off tutoring and questions.

Think about it. Who would get more attention by the teacher and by other peers? That is right the high school student who is not taking online classes. Is that what a 16 year old boy would want to do everyday until he graduated from high school? The child would not get to graduate with his class. He or she would miss out on school functions such as: basketball games, Friday night football, or even volleyball. What if a student was an excellent athlete and had a career in a sport that he or she enjoyed? But, that student would never have a chance to prove his or her true ability because they had no high school scouts looking at that person.

Online education is a great new tool, but only for the college population. The enrollment for our nation in online education has increased even more since last year and is continuing to grow. Their has been almost a 4,000 student increase at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said Nancy Aden. For the next few years, UNL suspects to have have a 10 percent increase in students. Aden said most of the students enrolled in the online courses are females who are working full-time. There have been surveys done by different UNL academic departments saying students tend to agree that online courses are
very good. “They rate online courses at the same quality as on-campus courses,” said Aden (Scarpello).

In conclusion, online education is a great investment for the college degree. It is not a good way to attain a high school diploma because students will be missing out on social interaction with peers. The student will never develop a relationship with his or her instructor; and they will be neglected from school events.
Work Cited


“Predisposed to Divorce”

Children are the future as many people say. Children, even as young as the age of three are influenced by the actions of others around them. Perhaps the most influential people in a child’s life are the child’s parents. As a child grows and develops, that influence begins to govern a greater area of the person’s life. When time comes to search for a possible mate, often will a person look to their parents for guidance on the matter? So then what happens when the parents are divorced? Are the children of divorced parents predisposed to divorce, or do they simply choose their own path of marriage? As Dr. Jane Rosen-Grandon points out, “Children whose parents are divorced may be predisposed to consider the option of divorce more readily” (Rosen-Grandon, par. 5). The children are indeed predisposed to having a divorce because they have been genetically (though the certainty of the effect of genes on all children is still up in the air), mentally, and physically been exposed to divorce in their youth, and therefore see divorce as an attainable option in their adult life.

In a study conducted by the New Scientist magazine, the researchers found that “Genetic makeup has a strong influence on whether or not your marriage will last” (Muir, par. 1). While the study was only conducted on identical twins, the results were astonishing. The researchers studied a group of approximately 8000 twins, both identical and non-identical, over a period of twenty years, and the twins who were identical carried a specific gene that the non-identical twins did not carry. The researchers found that the “Identical twins, who share the same genes, were more likely to follow the same patterns of divorce than non-identical twins, who share roughly half their genes” (Muir, par. 3).
As the results are still quite preliminary in the case of genes affecting marital status, this finding leads to believe that genes may affect divorce.

The mental perception of divorce is a key factor when deciding whether or not to get a divorce. The link between the “Childhood living arrangements of children to the characteristics of their marriage identifies a mechanism through which well-being is transmitted across generations” (Teachman, par 3). Children are brought up in the ways of their parents, good or bad. The children have a particular mind-set given to them by their parents, due to the fact that their parents have gone through the process of divorce and therefore the child will have a path to follow. If a “father’s involvement with children stems from the meanings and importance they assign the fathers” (Hensley and Pasley 1), what does it say to a child when his or her father walks out and leaves that child behind? The child is more likely to follow the example of his or her parents because the child knows the ramifications of the mental toile the divorce will have on them due to their previous experience with their own parents’ divorce. The child will rationalize, “My mom and dad are divorced, so I guess getting a divorce is okay.” Because divorce is so readily available in today’s society, when someone goes through a divorce, that person is not looked down upon as he or she might have been in the past decades. The mental and emotional constraints are not present. The mental worry of which parent the child will live with is not prevalent any more due to shared custody laws that protect both the mother and the father.

As a child grows up in the shadows of divorce, that child will set up an emotional process of self doubt in many different areas of his or her own life. When people fear failure, they cannot come to the point of self-actualization. That is, when people are in
constant fear of failure, they do not come to the point in their lives when they feel complete. If people don’t feel complete in one area of their life, there is a possibility that they do not feel complete in other areas, such as their marriage.

As children grow, they need a father figure in their life. Ronald Rohner, director of the Center for the Study of Parental Acceptance and Rejection in the School of Family Studies at the university of Connecticut, says that “A father’s love – or lack of it – is a critical yet understudied factor in child development” (qtd. In Thompson, par. 2). When the physical aspect of a father, or a mother for that matter, is not around, the child will learn how to adjust to the parent he or she chooses to live with. Take for instance, if a girl, whose parents had been divorced, lived with her mother her whole adolescent life and never saw her father, when she married, the girl would have a horrible time learning how to live with a man for the first time. She would have to adjust to the odd noises that a man can make, as well as the sight of sports equipment everywhere. While this may seem like something small to some, this can be a great deal to someone who has never physically lived with the other gender before. Therefore, when a child of divorced parents comes to a hard place with having to adjust to the stress of living with the opposite gender, that child may consider divorce more readily than someone who was of a married household.

Although there are many reasons why children are predisposed to divorce, such as genetically, mentally and physically, in the end, people will choose the route in which they will take concerning marriage. One of the best ways to prevent more divorce in the coming generations is for parents to realize that their actions will affect their children. Parents today are, “More fearful of divorce because they lived through it” (Gardner par.
9). That is encouraging in the sense that parents of today’s generation are trying to stay married because they have experienced it themselves. Maybe the present generation will set a better example for the future generation: the children.
Works Cited


NAACP CASE AGAINST GUN MANUFACTURERS

Gun manufacturers and distributors should not be responsible for the uses of their firearms, once they are in the hands of the consumer. Contrary to these beliefs, The NAACP is “alleging negligent marketing practices” against these gun manufacturers. (Hays 4) The NAACP lost the case against the gun manufacturers, but they are trying to arouse a second case with new evidence and new lawyers.

Gun manufacturers only make and market guns, They do not have anyway to control who uses there guns or what they use them for. “The defendants argued it was unlawful to hold them liable for the criminal use of a legal product.” (Mays 3) Gun manufacturers are not the ones who decide weather or not a gun is used to kill a deer or a human being. They do not load the gun or pull the trigger, so how can anyone imply that these incidents that happen are the responsibilities of the gun manufacturers. The market for guns can not determine who is buying the guns. Gun manufacturers market guns for personal protection and sporting enjoyment. Not to kill people or to use them in robberies. Guns Manufacturers are not using “negligent marketing practices.” The guns are just falling into the wrong hands.

The president of the NAACP Kweisi Mfume said, “They must stop dumping firearms in over saturated markets.” This suggest that gun manufacturers should quit making guns? People who need guns for illegal use will always have their ways of finding their guns. This people are the ones who ruin it for the rest of the law abiding people, such as the gun manufacturers. Everyone knows that guns are not a cheap asset, so gun manufacturers are not “dumping” these guns into the market. The market is just
the place were guns can be purchased by the people for different purposes. Franklin J. Murray says “Under the antigun theory, . . . Manufacturers also are liable for legally sold guns later used by criminals—because the product is so ultra hazardous.” (Murray 6) This statement comes from the antigun theory and this is obvious. The products sold by gun manufacturers today are very safe if used properly. It is a rare day indeed when a gun malfunctions, causing harm to a safe user. The only “ultra hazardous” firearms are those that are being used by someone with hazardous intentions. Also this statement suggest that if a gun is stolen, from someone who purchased it legally, and is used in a murder then the gun manufacturer should be held responsible for that killing. No one but the person who pulled the trigger should be held responsible for killing someone. As mentioned before, this statement obviously comes form an antigun theory.

John White, spokesman for the NAACP, says that “The numbers…show handguns are the leading cause of death among young black men.” They even went as far as to say the gun manufacturers have “turned black communities into war zones.” (Murray) One can see why the NAACP is so mad. They figure that the gun industry is corrupting their communities, and putting them and their families in danger. The only problem is that the gun manufacturers are not doing this. The people responsible for these actions are the ones inside the communities providing the ways for these guns to be purchased. Do not punish the ones who also make it possible to protect against these illegal users and buyers.

The NAACP “organization will not seek financial damages but injunctions ordering the industry to make several changes in its distribution and marketing practices.” (Stodgily 11 7) This shows that the NAACP does have their mind on what they believe is
right, but that still doesn’t make it right. They are not just interested in getting more money, but are interested in making the streets safer for them and the generations to come. This, however, is not the right way to go about pursuing this dream. Before things are done the NAACP needs to sit down and think about who is really at fault in the case. If this is done the NAACP would see it really isn’t the ones who make the guns, but rather the ones who pull the trigger.

The NAACP is pushing for better ways to track the sales of these firearms and to who these firearms are being sold too. This again is good intentions but there are so many laws already in place that if a criminal tries to purchase a gun he will have a hard time doing it legally. When a gun is bought credit checks and background checks are required. The guns bought now are also required to be registered. After the purchase of a gun, one must wait 30 days for the grace period to be over before he or she can take the gun home. If everything is clear then the person is allowed to obtain his or her weapon. What else can be done. Most of the guns used in killings are purchased illegally or stolen. For these reasons manufacturers should not have to spend more money to change their already effective ways.
Works Cited


