

EDITORIALS
INSPIRED YOUTH WRITING

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*Written by the K-10th graders
of the Inspired Youth Tutoring Program*

By Bianca V., 2nd gr.

It is wrong that doors are unlocked at my school, because someone could get kidnapped or robbed. Important things can get stolen. Someone could bring a weapon, and this happened in my school. But if the janitor forgets his keys, he could get in. Anyone could get in. Doors should be locked!

By Nely A., 5th gr.

Bullying is a bad thing and some bullies could hurt you. Bullying is a bad thing because you can get hurt. Bullying is a bad thing because someone can put disgusting food on you. Bullying is a bad thing because you can get into a fight. You could argue that some people are sensitive and could get hurt. But here's the weakness. Bullying is a very dangerous thing because you can get hurt. So, don't be rude or mean, for you could get hurt.

By Erin C., 3rd gr.

Something wrong with my school is that we have too much homework. My first reason is that it is super hard. It is hard, because it is long. My second reason is that it takes a lot of time. It takes a lot of time because I have to stay up all night doing my homework. My last reason is it makes you tired. It makes me tired because it is hard to focus. You could say it helps you learn, but I

should be able to learn everything at school.

1

By Sathwik N., kindergarten, and his tutor

PEOPLE SHOULDN'T FIGHT

People shouldn't fight because it is mean. It is mean because it hurts people. I have fought with my brother. I have punched him and he has punched me. I know fighting is mean. Secondly, people shouldn't fight because it can make someone cry. I have cried after being punched in a fight with my brother, and it doesn't feel good. It is hurtful to me. Lastly, people shouldn't fight because a person could get even more mad. This could lead to a greater fight. All in all, people shouldn't fight because it can lead to someone being hurt, and it is mean!

By Jaylen S., 3rd gr.

People should stop littering around the neighborhood. In fact, I've noticed that there is a lot of trash around the neighborhood. Plus, littering kills sea animals. And animals have died because of eating the trash that was thrown into the ocean. This shows that you should stop littering because animals have a life just like we do. Also, it does not look nice on the streets. Third, it harms the earth, because we need the earth to live. And it is dying. You could argue that there are already enough trash cans that we can put our trash into. But here's the weakness. There are hardly any trash cans around here, and you can't put the trash anywhere. So people should stop littering.

By Tanish A., kindergarten, and his tutor

Chicago Is Dirty!

When Tanish walks to school, he sees chip bags on the ground. He also sees bags rolling on the street. But there are not enough garbage cans! Chicago is dirty, and needs more garbage cans.

By Emily P., 2nd gr.

I think guns are bad because they can kill people. When they do it, they get away. Then the police miss who did it, and they are still out there. Guns are sometimes found. Kids can find guns. People fight with guns. People kill themselves with guns. People like guns. Guns make me scared because I feel like I'm going to find one.

By Layla S., 5th gr.

Littering is a problem. There is trash on the ground outside. Go check!

I sometimes see people littering and not picking it up. Maybe an animal can come across your trash and eat it. Then the animal can get sick because they ate your trash. Dogs like trash. It is going to kill them.

Some people don't like to step on trash. Some people litter, then another person can step in your trash. Then they are going to get mad and go home with dirty shoes.

You could argue that littering is not bad. The weakness is that littering is bad. Littering is a problem.

By Ashley S., 2nd gr.

Chicago Needs More Parking Spots

The first reason why Chicago needs more parking spaces is because it is hard to find a spot. When I am in the car, we often cannot find a spot. The second reason is because you have to wait for a long time to get a spot. We have had to wait 15 minutes to get a spot. The third reason is because there are

too many cars that need spots. Cars sometimes take the spot you want. A counterclaim could be that the parking spots would use up so much space.

However, it would be very helpful.

Therefore, Chicago needs more parking spots. 2

By Gianna S., 3rd gr., and her tutor

Chicago Is Cold

Chicago is cold because of its weather. Chicago is by a lake, which makes Chicago cold.

Chicago is cold because it's big. Chicago is big, which makes Chicago colder.

Chicago is cold because it's popular. There are lots of people, so Chicago is cold.

Some may say Chicago is a pretty place to live. There's not also good weather in Chicago, so it's hard to find pretty days.

By Jordynn J., 4th gr.

Some people fight in my school because I witnessed one and someone could have gotten hurt. Another one is people litter, and some people have plastic and throw it down. Also, in my class, some of the students distract me because they goof around. I could argue that you should not fight because people get hurt and go to the hospital. But here is the weakness. When someone tells them to stop fighting, they constantly keep fighting. Please don't fight, litter, or distract your classmates.

By Carlos C-G., 3rd gr.

The food is good at my school. The food at my school is fresh. The bananas are good. It has protein. It's healthy. It gives me fuel. I like the food very much. You could argue

that there's not enough food because I'm still hungry, but I like the food very much.

By Hanan A., 2nd gr. I think I have too much homework. My first reason is I take a long time to do it. It takes an hour! I don't think it is fun. My last reason is it's boring. Sometimes I even fall asleep. Some people think it's not too much homework. They are wrong. It takes a long time.

By Adithi G., kindergarten, and her tutor
There should be more friends in my neighborhood. I have only one in my neighborhood. Shashi is the only friend who lives by me. My other friends live far. It takes a lot of time to go see my friends. My baby brother wants friends, too. He doesn't know anybody near us.

You could argue that you need to work instead of play. But here's the weakness. I work a lot and say please, so it's good to play. I need to play with friends that live close!

By Raul V., 4th gr.
How do people build cigarette pollution? How people build cigarette pollution is when they smoke, there is a strong smell, that when people smell it, the smell hurts their lungs. You could argue that people can be considerate and smoke much less. But here's the weakness. People get addicted and cannot stop. People, please don't smoke. Be healthy.

By Tyra R., 5th gr. Here's what I think: Chicago needs more restaurants. Here are my reasons. Some people want to go around to world to see other restaurants. I know this because of the people that travel.

Some people are homeless. I know this because there are not a lot of restaurants around for homeless people. Sometimes people want different types of food. I know this because sometimes other people want to try different things. Counter argument: You don't want a lot of restaurants because of the streets. But here's the weakness. We want a lot of restaurants because of all the homeless people. Finally, I think Chicago should have a lot of restaurants.

3

By Donovan F., 3rd gr.
There should be no bullies in my neighborhood because they hurt me. They are all mean to me when all the kids throw rocks at me. I need more friends. None of the kids are my friends. People could argue that there should be bullies because they think it's fun to bully people. Imagine if you were the other person. You would not like it. People should not bully other people.

By Gregorio F., 8th gr.
I'm going to get straight to the point. Humanity shouldn't be here. Killing off humanity would be a lot better for the environment than humans generally trying to help.

If you really think about it, humanity is the cause of most problems. A good example would be the bombs destroying the environment. Another would be pollution. Things humans have created like plastics, factories, and nuclear waste. All of these are things which kill off the ozone layer. The reason that the ozone layer was depleted is because of pollution.

I've already seen and read people saying that "We are trying to fix the problems we

have created.” Sadly, these things humanity is supposedly “fixing” are just creating even more problems.

My point is that humanity would be better off dead.

By Gianna S., 3rd gr.

My school reads too much. The books don't interest my brain. The books I read today made me bored. Every time I read, I'm bored. My brain hurts when I read. You could argue that there is a book for everyone, and not every book is boring. It's boring, but so good for your brain.

By Miracle C., 1st gr.

Chicago is a nice city. My family lives there and my cousins live there, too. The church is nice, and I like the buildings. Sometimes I don't like this city because people are always around with my mom.

By Deamiya P., 3rd gr.

People should be nice in school because people's feelings get hurt. If people were nice in school, they could make more friends, and it's annoying when people are mean. People's feelings are hurt. For example, I have seen people cry at school because someone was mean to them. If you are nicer, you can make more friends. My friend was mean to me, and I didn't want to be her friend anymore. People who are nice make more friends.

When people are mean, it's annoying to people. My friends got annoying and got in trouble.

In conclusion, people should be nice in school.

By Emiya E., 1st gr.

My school reads too much! I don't have any interest in reading because it's boring. Every time I read, I am not interested. My brain hurts when I read.

By Maukeyla J., 8th gr.

Here's what I think. There's too much drama. People have different opinions. There is a lot of fighting and a lot of arguments. It's bad because they treat other people badly. When people take someone else's stuff, it makes more problems. They say that there are not a lot of arguments, but there are. There are a lot of arguments. There is too much fighting and too many arguments. 4

By Lindsay L., kindergarten, with her tutor

I think teachers should be nicer. Right now, my teachers are mean, and I don't like that. My first reason why teachers should be nicer is that they scream. When they get angry, they raise their voices, and that makes me sad. Another reason is that they give too much homework. The homework takes too long to do, which isn't nice. My final reason is that nice teachers make me happy. Once a teacher gave me candy and I felt good. Some people could say teachers aren't supposed to be nice. But it is not hard to be nice, and nice people make me happy. So just be nice! That's why I think teachers should be nicer.

By Malachi H., 4th gr.

From 2017-2020 someone has been stealing my Beyblade. The way they steal it is by going into my locker. I saw someone going into my locker on the camera, so I am going to call the police on that person who is stealing my Beyblade. The reason why I am

going to tell the police is because in third grade we found who was stealing the Beyblade, so the principal said if he steals one more Beyblade, she is going to call the police. I also cannot tell the teacher because the teacher HATES Beyblades. One time our teacher smashed one of the kid's Beyblades, and threw it in the garbage. That's how much he HATES Beyblades.

By Baron F., 1st gr.

Math is good. It's good because I did a lot of it last year in kindergarten. I'm really good at math. I do well on tests. I like math because I have an app on my iPad that has penguins. It's fun. You could argue that reading is better. This is not true because math is better. That's why math is better.

By Arianny, 1st gr., as told to her tutor

Sometimes I sit in class and think about I want a pet. There are so many reasons why we should have a class pet. They would be soft, and soft pets make you happy. You could play with them, which would boost your mood. They could also be a reward, which would motivate kids. Although they would require work, it would teach kids responsibility. Therefore, all classes should have pets.

By Mushtaq D., 6th gr.

PARKS AND PEOPLE

Parks are important because people use parks for recreational purposes. People use parks to take walks, read books, play games and lots more. Unfortunately, people litter in the park. That is a big problem. Instead of littering, people in Chicago should clean up after themselves.

We need clean parks for people to enjoy. No one wants to use dirty parks, so to get more people to go to the park, it has to be clean.

Litter is not good for the environment because animals get stuck in garbage.

Plastic is not good for soil either.

Having garbage in parks attracts unwanted animals like racoons, mice, and rodents. Having these animals at our parks is dangerous to people.

While many would agree, some say "Parks are not important to keep clean." They claim that no one uses parks. But people use them recreationally, and some don't have another place to use. For these people, parks are important.

For us, parks are beautiful green spaces that we need to respect.

People of Chicago, clean up! Pick up your garbage!

5

By Monish A., 6th gr.

Graffiti is bad. I think this because graffiti often contains curse words, and younger kids read the graffiti, and they learn the bad words

Also, graffiti often mentions things that are offensive to other people. This makes people feel disrespected.

My final reason is that it can be expensive for schools to clean up graffiti, because the school has to paint all over the graffiti. It's also time consuming for the people to clean and paint over the graffiti.

You could argue that graffiti is good because kids are expressing themselves. But drawing on other people's property is not the way to do it. Kids could draw on paper, and stick it on the fence, and they will still express themselves.

In conclusion, people should stop doing graffiti on other people's property, even if it's to express themselves. There are many other ways to express yourself but graffiti is not the way to do it.

By Marwan D., 8th gr.

Here is what I think about climate change. Climate change is infecting our world with bad things. Here are my reasons: It's starting fires. Evidence: In Australia there was a fire, thousands of fires. My second reason is it was cold last year because it was winter. Evidence: It was colder than any winter. My last reason is that ice was melting in Green Bay. Evidence: In the Arctic it is supposed to be cold, not melt. My counter-argument: I could argue that fire happens sometimes but not all the time. But the weakness is that the fire is getting worse now. Climate change is getting worse these years.

By Nathan L., 6th gr.

Guess what!? The earth is dying! So why don't you do something about pollution? Pollution is causing unnatural disasters, like fires, causing animals to die. So why not make air pollution not a thing!

We can start by making factories use alternative fuel. And make more ecofriendly things from leaves. Also, stop using plastic.

We can also put a bunch of trash cans everywhere so you do not throw anything on the ground.

If we do this, people will be healthy, also animals, and make everywhere beautiful. We can do this, but we don't.

By Rithwik N., 2nd gr.

My neighborhood is too windy. There is ice on the sidewalk, and that is bad. It is hard to walk straight. I get pulled into the road. The people might fall on the ice and get hurt. My tutor's dad fell on the ice.

By Hassan D., 5th gr., and his tutor

I believe there should be less homework for 5th graders. Here are my reasons. Fifth graders are busy outside of school because they are doing many activities, such as Circ-esteem. Fifth graders are assigned two or more hours of homework per week. I tracked my homework since the start of the years, and have had two and a half hours of homework a week.

Homework is not effective when students copy each other. This may happen sometimes in after school programs. You can argue that there's not enough time in the day to reinforce what's being taught. But some students either copy, guess, or don't do their homework. In conclusion, assigning homework to only do at home does not work.

6

By Mukunth R., 3rd gr.

Stop Pollution

We should stop pollution because it kills wild life by global warming starting fires. It destroys the oceans because animals can eat plastic. It affects the water we drink by making the water dirty. Some people say if we stop pollution, jobs will be lost. But new jobs will be built from stopping pollution. We should stop pollution because it is bad for the environment.

By Shashi R., kindergarten, and her tutor

Here is why school should have more free time. There should be more free time

because it is fun to play with toys, like when I play hide and seek and play with blocks. It's hard to listen to the teachers. One time the teachers talked so much they lost their voice! We should also have more free time because we can be creative. There should be more free time so I can paint butterflies and rainbows.

By Jessica K., 3rd gr.

School is boring. My first evidence is we have so much math, reading, and spelling. We have a lot of work. My second evidence is it starts too early, at 8:00 a.m. We can argue we need more homework ... but we have a lot of homework. Kids need more free time!

By Malik O, 3rd gr.

Here's what I think. I think racism is bad. Here are my reasons. We're equal. We live the same. Racism makes people feel bad. People are hurt. White people hate black people and black people hate white people. You could argue that people get separated by fighting. But here's the weakness. People should be together. I say: Be together!

Hannah B., 6th gr.

This city should have more and cheaper parking. The first reason is that the city has more cars than parking places. Here's how I know. My mom and I were driving one time (or two) and we couldn't find a parking space close to where we were going, so we had to park blocks away from it.

The second reason is that cars are being towed because they parked in the "No Parking Zone." For this, my evidence is that my mom couldn't find an actual parking space, so she got her car towed. Because

people get their car towed, they have to pay the very expensive fine they get. My example is this. After my mom's car was towed, she couldn't pay the car bill, so the bill keeps rising to this day!!

You could argue that the city can charge more money, but the consequences are that people who pay for parking won't have enough money, so the city won't have enough either.

In conclusion, there should be more parking so the people can have enough money.

By Saniyah J., 4th gr.

People should not litter in Chicago. It pollutes the Earth, and it is bad for animals. Animals can get sick.

My second reason is banana peels hurt the tailbone. I have tripped over a banana peel.

My third reason is it's not pretty like Hawai'i. Hawai'i is prettier than Chicago because it doesn't have litter.

You could argue that other people can clean up for you. But here's the weakness. Please don't litter. Help keep your and other communities clean.

KIDNAPPING

By Reaisha J., 6th gr.

Kidnappers should stop harming innocent women, men, and children. This is a common problem occurring around this time and I want to change that. This could be a very scary experience for the person and their family. I know this is very scary because parents cry and post many posts saying their child is kidnapped and even rewards the person that finds the child,

woman, man, etc. This is a common problem occurring around this time, and I want to change that.

This is a scary experience for the person and their family. The person that got kidnapped may be in great danger. They could be getting sexually assaulted and their body may not be able to handle all of that, so they can die. Lastly, it makes a very dangerous environment.

You could argue that it's not a scary experience for some kids. For some kids the kidnapper may be their family after a while.

But here's the weakness. The kid may think it's their only family, but what family takes their own family away from those they love and hurts their so called "family." In conclusion, kidnapping should stop, now!

By Hayat A., 2nd gr.

Don't litter! People are throwing trash in the lake. I saw trash in the lake. I saw trash in the park on the way here. The park is dirty. Because of the plastic in the ocean, animals are getting hurt by eating the trash. You could argue that if there is food on the ground, pick it up. But here's the weakness. There's too much plastic! Don't litter!

7

WHY LUNCH DETENTION IS BAD

By Zakiyya B., 3rd gr.

Lunch detention is horrible. Here are my reasons why lunch detention is bad: You have to sit alone. It's bad because you miss out on hanging out with your friends. Some other reasons why lunch detention is bad: You get a blue slip and the whole class has to miss out on the monthly reward. You

also lose iPad privileges. People are going to beat you in ST Math. You could argue that you get peace and quiet if you have to sit alone. But lunch detention is horrible.

By Lizzie B., as told to her tutor

An issue in my neighborhood is the garbage by the fence. I believe that the garbage needs to be cleaned up because it causes pollution. There are trash cans to throw things out and the neighborhood will be cleaner. The reason I think trash will pollute is because it harms nature. Garbage should go in the trash, and recycles in the recycles. No trash on the fence means a cleaner neighborhood and happier people.

By Dylin C., 3rd gr.

Yelling is annoying. You can lose your voice. I yell a lot, so sometimes I can lose my voice. It's also disturbing to listen to. On the TV, when they yell, it's disturbing. It's distracting if you're doing homework. People in my family yell, and it's very annoying. You could argue that people might want to show their feelings. But yelling can be good when you tell them to stop. In conclusion, yelling is annoying.

8

By Himaneesh D., Kindergarten

Strong doctors should stop the coronavirus so it doesn't hurt each country, because the virus is spreading in other countries. Stop the coronavirus so we can stay safe.

ALL KIDS SHOULD GET IN LINE

By Marilu G., 5th gr.

All kids should get in line every day. Here are my reasons why. Kids are playing tag in line. You won't have recess when you're not in line. We will have to get a line order. These are the reasons why I think kids should get in line.

Sometimes the principal has to come to talk to us about it. She always says that if it keeps happening, they will take everything from us, like Field Day, which is when you have tickets to play games. She also said she will take away our talent show, too.

I think kids should stop and get in line so we cannot get in trouble and we can have recess.

By Evelin Z., 5th gr.

Here's what I think. Smoking is bad for people. You can get cancer. It's bad for kids to smell it. Leaving it on the ground is not good. They would say that it's not bad for you, but it really is. It's wrong because you can get cancer, and you can DIE!!

By Eliza A., 2nd gr.

Getting beat up is dangerous because you're fighting and you can get hurt. It's dangerous because you are being punched and it hurts, and you can break a bone. You could bleed, and blood is scary. You could argue that some people want to defend themselves, because some people are bullying them. Being beat up is dangerous because you can go to the hospital.

By Yaritza A., 6th gr.

Here's what I think. Students should have snacks in school! Here are my reasons. Students are very hungry during class from all that learning all day, and they are hungry.

Another reason is students sometimes don't eat at school. Some students don't like the food from school, and sometimes they don't even eat at home! A final reason why students should have snack at school is that students could have more energy from eating snacks.

You could argue that the students won't clean up, and that food could be distracting. But here's the weakness, the poor janitor has to clean up twice as much for students making a mess. The janitors could get paid three dollars more than their usual pay, but students should have snacks in school!