

## **EDITORIALS**

### ***INSPIRED YOUTH WRITING***

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*Written by the PS-10<sup>th</sup> graders of the Inspired Youth Tutoring Program, with help from their tutors.*

By Fidel V., 7<sup>th</sup> gr. Schools shouldn't have uniforms because of the uniform's effect on students. One of the effects is students from other schools bullying them.

The second reason is that some parents can't afford the school uniforms. They cost a lot of money, which some parents don't have. My last reason is that if students get the pants or shirt of the uniform dirty or ripped, they might get in trouble. They might not be able to go to the laundromat to wash them before school. Someone could argue that uniforms are easier to identify students from a school. But the weakness is that school uniforms don't let kids/students express themselves. These are the reasons that students should not wear school uniforms.

By Josiah (age 4) and Erin

Four-year olds should be able to play basketball, because we're not babies any more. It improves our skills, and it keeps us healthy.

We're old enough to not be treated like babies. We're able to make our own decisions. It helps us improve our basketball skills so that we can beat other teams and be good when we're older. Finally, sports keep us healthy. If we play basketball from a young age, it'll set good, healthy habits that we can carry on through life.

Therefore, four-year olds should be able to play basketball. Also, it's Josiah's birthday in three more days.

By Lorenzo V. (age 4), Ava S., and Natalie

We think that Chicago should have cleaner streets. We think so because it would make things safer, make things smell better, and it would be easier to get from place to place. It would make things safer because trash can make people sick. It would make the city smell better because it gets rid of the bad, not good smells. It would make things easier for transportation because it clears the way. Some might say that it would be expensive for the government and people to pay for. However, federal taxes are possible, and the rich could pay for it. Therefore, with cleaner streets Chicago would be a better and more efficient city.

By Giselle (age 4), and her tutor Roxana J-H.

Students should have iPads in schools because we can play on them during free time, we can use them to learn new things, and they can save lots of paper. First, iPads are great to use when we're bored. We can read, play games, or watch movies on them. Secondly, we can use the internet to learn about a lot of things instead of using books. It is very fast and there are many more sources. Finally, iPads save paper because we don't need to use books and worksheets as often. We could really make the world cleaner. You could argue that iPads are unhealthy for young children, that it hurts our eyes. But here's the weakness. Children can be trained to not use iPads too much. In conclusion, iPads can keep us from getting bored, we can use them to learn new things, and they can save lots of paper.

By Arianny L. (k), and her tutor Arya P.

We should have more recess time. We should have more recess time because it's fun, we get to spend time with friends, and we get to play. It's fun because kids have more fun at recess. It would be nice to spend time with our friends because they are nice. It's super fun to play, and it's good for you. You could argue that people should get more homework, but they could do homework at home. That's why we should have more recess!

By Rachel F. (k) and her tutor Gia

I think...there should be more big houses in my neighborhood. This is because I want to play in larger spaces right where I live. I also want to have my own room so I can sleep by myself. If I had a big house, I would have more privacy, so I could get more alone time. You could argue that I would have to clean up more, but that's okay because it shows I had tons of fun! Therefore, big houses are better than small because I can have more fun, have my own room, and have more privacy.

By Jessica K., 2<sup>nd</sup> gr. and her tutor

No School Uniforms

Every day we want to wear our own clothes, but we have to wear school uniforms. We can only wear our own clothes on holidays and the 1<sup>st</sup> day of school. The uniforms are also not very colorful. The only colors are blue, red, and yellow. Those are very ugly colors. They are

also small. The pants and skirt only have size 6 and 7. Jessica is a size 8. Jessica does like the skirt, but she can only wear them in summer.

By Ashley S., 1<sup>st</sup> gr., and her tutor Meade E.

Chicago should have a Disney World. We should have a Disney World because it would make Chicago more fun because of the roller coasters. A lot of people would go because there are a lot of things to do there. People would go there in their free time because people have a lot of free time. People could argue that there's no space, but you could put it on the lake. Because of all those reasons, Chicago should have a Disney World.

By Malik, 2<sup>nd</sup> gr., and his tutor

Here's what I think: There are lots of people without cars that could use them. Cars should be free. If you don't have money, a car will help you get around. Cars are an easier form of transportation. You can use a car if you miss the train. Also, it's easier to transport large amounts of things with a car. If you go to the grocery store, you can put all your things in the car. You could argue that cars shouldn't be free because then the workers won't get paid. But here's the weakness. The workers don't need all of that money. They could help people who don't have as much money. Cars should be free, to make life easier for people.

By Baron (k) and Camille

More Friends in Classes

There should be more friends in our classes because it's more fun, and it's easier to work fast when you're with people you know. Someone might argue that it's good to meet new people, but some people are shy. It's easier to work with people you know and like.

By Jah'Lil C., 3<sup>rd</sup> gr.

Here's what I think about bullying. It's wrong. There are three reasons why. You should be nice to people. You should treat people how you want to be treated. Bullying can cause violence. If you were in their position, you would be sad. You could argue that bullying is not illegal. But here's the weakness. Bully is not illegal, but it is not right.

By Jeffrey V., 5<sup>th</sup> gr., and his tutor

Students should have their phones in class. It helps students become less stressed. They become less stressed when they take their mind off of the task. Phones can also be a useful tool. Students can search up cool facts that can help with school work. They will spend more time with friends. This makes them happy. Some may say phones are distracting, but students use them to better understand the topics.

By Lanyia R., 7<sup>th</sup> gr.

In my school, I believe that graffiti should not be in school bathrooms because it doesn't set a good example. Here are my reasons and evidence. First, my school needs to look appropriate, and graffiti makes the school look bad. Second, they need to do a few touch-ups to the school because it doesn't look right or appropriate. Thirdly, students need to have a good idea so others won't look at it, since it's bad for them. My real argument is that my school can get a few people to help us clean it up, but I really think a few people out of the group will not help us clean it up. In total, I believe that graffiti is not good for schools for people to look at outside, because I believe it makes schools and cities look bad.

By Itzel V., 6<sup>th</sup> gr., and her tutor

There should be better food in school. It doesn't taste good because the food is only frozen food. They only warm up the food. The second reason is kids would eat more food, and then kids would not be that hungry. The last reason is it's a waste of food, because if it tastes bad, they are not going to eat it. They are going to throw it away. You could argue that better tasting food is too expensive. But here's the weakness. Schools don't have that much money to buy expensive food that is good. They should buy better food.

By Tyra R., 4<sup>th</sup> gr.

I think people should clean up their dog's poop. When they step in it, they are going to get mad because it's right in their face. It smells bad because it's nasty. I feel mad that I step in it. They should pick up after their dogs. You could argue that people would think it's good for the earth, but here's the weakness: It's bad for people to step in it. Finally, dog owners should pick up their dog's poop.

By Bianca V., kindergarten

I think there should be no more fighting. Fighting makes people sad. Sometimes people you know can get hurt. Also, fighting can lead to death. There are lots of stories on the news. In addition, fighting makes people angry. It makes people do bad things.

You could argue that fighting gets out tension between people. But here is the weakness. People can get hurt and it would affect them into future. Fighting is bad and people should know that.

By Jordynn J., 3<sup>rd</sup> gr.

Here's what I think. There should be less trash in my neighborhood. It's unsafe. There is lots of stuff that people can step on. Also, it makes the neighborhood dirty. Trash makes it smell bad and the neighborhood is too dirty. Trash is unhealthy for animals. It can pollute the ocean and animals can get hurt. Some people say that trash does not affect the neighborhood. Trash actually does affect the neighborhood, the people, animals, and nature.

By Donovan, 2<sup>nd</sup> gr., and his tutor

Students should have indoor recess every day. It's too cold outside, and you can get sick, especially when there's snow. There are many group games we can play inside, with balls, with a goga ball, with friends. There's nothing to do outside. There's no playground. We just run around. You could argue that the cold doesn't matter, and it's fun outside. But you could get sick outside. It's too cold to have recess outside, and it's less fun.

By Alejandro S., 8<sup>th</sup> gr.

Schools should allow students to keep their phones. When kids finish all their work, they should be able to use their phones. They could use them to study more or not talk as much. When they are done on a test and waiting for others to finish, they have to read a book or do more work, after they just finished a test. If they go on field trips and lose their groups, they could call someone and tell them where they are.

Counter arguments: You could argue that students could pull their phones while the teachers are talking or cheat on the test they have. But students should be able to keep their phones.

By Monish A., 5<sup>th</sup> gr.

Students should not have phones in school. Here are my reasons: Students will not learn, because they might use their phone to cheat, etc. Students will trick their teachers into letting them use their phones. If one kid has a phone, other kids want to use the phone or hold it. When they do, they might drop the phone and it might break. You could argue that phones can be used to call parents or if anything goes on, etc. But the problem with that is, kids may be a little sneaky in school and use their phone when their teacher is not looking.

The overall reason phones should not be used in school is that phones will attract attention, and something bad may happen to the phone.

By Reaisha, 5<sup>th</sup> gr., and her tutors

We should have cell phones so we can contact our parents if there is an emergency. If there was a fire or lock down, how would we alert our parents? We should be able to contact them to tell them to pick us up and to know we are safe.

Secondly, you can research new things on your phone. We can use our phone to listen to music and do research on our iPads.

Finally, we can use our phone for fun! You can use it at recess or for free time. We can do fun videos to represent the school. Also, we can dance, and I like to dance.

You could argue that the iPad screen is big, so your eyes won't hurt. But here's the weakness. You can zoom in!

We really should have phones.

By Lexy V., 10<sup>th</sup> gr.

There has been too much dog poop around Chicago Public Schools. I believe that the Chicago Park District should take care of it.

There has been too much excrement around the park. This also attracts many flies and rats. It may also ruin people's shoes when they are not looking around where they are going. I suggest a fine of \$500 for all dog owners who don't clean up after their pets. I would say there should be a separate dog park and a park for people.

My final thought is why don't people like to pick up their dogs' poop? Are they lazy, or maybe they just don't see, or what? My other question is: why can't you be responsible for your dog while he's pooping in another neighbor's front yard!

By Gregorio F., 7<sup>th</sup> gr.,

I hate society. One of my reasons is we are what is wrong with the earth. The only reason pollution exists is because humanity does. Another reason is that we tend to cause wars and we bomb each other. People tend to blame North Korea for all the bombs, when the U.S. has more than they do. We also try to put things we have to do to the side, or complain about what other people do, when they do it as well. Society is made up of hypocrites and procrastinators. Humans complain and set things aside so much they don't even realize it. You could argue that we also make the world better for others. But here's the weakness: it only makes it better for humans. In short, society sucks.

By Carlos C., 2<sup>nd</sup> gr., and his tutor

Schools need more recess. One reason is because play is fun. My evidence is that there are so many games to play. Another reason is that school can be boring. School is boring because we just sit in chairs. When you play, it's good for you. You can run, and running is exercise. You could argue that learning is better than playing. But playing/running is also really good for you. More recess would mean more playing, which is good for you.

By Sarahi R., 5<sup>th</sup> gr.

### CHICAGO

Chicago has some bad things. Here are some reasons why. In streets, parks, trains/train stops, and other places in Chicago it can be dangerous because there could be violence and fights that could hurt people. In Chicago there is trash on the ground because people throw trash in places there they aren't supposed to. In Chicago there are many cars, trucks, and buildings. When they release gases, those gases affect trees and damage them. When the trees get damaged, they can't release oxygen that is needed for people to breathe.

You could argue that we plant trees, we recycle, and we have policemen. But here's one of the weaknesses: Gases harm trees by giving them bad air. If there are too many cars, the trees can't release enough good oxygen. In conclusion, I think people should work harder to make Chicago a better city.

By Tanish A., Pre-K

We should get iPads for school because fun games help us learn. My first reason is we can play games at home and night. My second reason is because fun games give us happiness. My last reason is it is on-line learning and less to carry

By Gabriel O., 4<sup>th</sup> gr.

Here's what I think. School should be fun! Here are my reasons: First, that students can have fun so they can take out their energy so they can focus on their work. When teachers just talk and don't let them talk, the students lose focus and start to play and talk.

Second, students need to burn off their energy. Energy makes students get distracted from their work.

Third, the students get bored when the teachers talk a lot about math, reading, writing, science, and social studies.

You could argue that school is already fun. I disagree because teachers do not give fun activities to do when we are learning.

School is not fun right now. But if teachers make activities more fun, kids will like to learn.

By David C., 3<sup>rd</sup> gr.

Students should have the freedom to wear anything they want. Uniforms are expensive. Uniforms are not comfortable. People should do what they want. You could argue that uniforms represent the school. Furthermore, not everybody has the same amount of money. But here's the weakness. Not every school wants uniforms. This is why I say students should be wearing what they want!

By Emily P., 1<sup>st</sup> gr.

There are many dangers. First, I think some people should not be robbing people, because their family gave them the things.

Second, it's not safe to smoke, because the lighter can burn the house. Third, there should be no guns, because they kill people. You could argue that people should take care of themselves. But here's the weakness. Someone might die. Guns are very dangerous and should never be used.

By Layla S., 4<sup>th</sup> gr.



I think people should be allowed to have pit-bulls. Some people say pit-bulls are dangerous. Some people think pit-pulls are dangerous because they're entered into dog fighting. But the dogs aren't naturally aggressive. They are taught to be mean. Pit-bulls protect you. They're great company, they're fun to play with, and they help you get exercise. Pit-bulls are loving, and they care about you. Pit-bulls should be allowed.

By Raul V., 3<sup>rd</sup> gr.

Here's what I think: No homework! It creates stress. It takes too much time. It takes time from relaxing. You could argue that it's good practice. Also, it creates good habits. But here's the weakness: You can still practice in school. We all hate homework. Homework should be illegal!

By Priscilla H., 7<sup>th</sup> gr. Students have to listen to the teachers, and some teachers expect us to do everything the way they told us to. Some teachers think that everyone learns the same and at the same pace.

In a school that I went to, one of the teachers gives the class one way to do an assignment and won't let us use our creativity. In schools, some teachers expect us to understand what they're saying, and they don't have/want to spell it out. They don't think that they have to give it to students in a different way.

Some teachers just "love" some students; they are always verbally "bullying" them. When a teacher calls on you and you don't know the answer, the teacher might say something mean. This happens to students all the time.

A lot of teachers don't get the idea that everyone's different. Some teachers like to make students feel guilty for asking questions, but then tell us to ask questions. Well, which one is it? Ask questions, or stay quiet?

You could argue that there's only one teacher and a lot of students, and they don't have time to meet everyone's needs. While that is true, some (SOME) teachers don't even try to get to know and understand their students.

Any teachers, if you read this, try to get to know your kids, and don't say anything mean to a kid. You don't know what's going on in their shoes. You tell us students, "If you don't have anything nice to

say, don't say anything at all." Can you (teachers) stick to your words?

By Yusuf S., 11 yrs. old

Here's what I think. Online school is a great way to learn. There is no bullying nor teasing or hitting. Bullying can cause problems mentally. Also, you can work as much as you want and finish whenever. This can make you finish faster. You can go back in the lessons and review. This can help you in tests. You could argue that in online learning you are not very social. Also, when things are all online, nothing is hard work except writing. But the weakness is that you have an online virtual class and students. To conclude, online school is a great way to be educated safely.

By Hassan D., 4<sup>th</sup> gr.

I would like a driver's license, and a car, and a phone. I would like a car so I can get around the city. People get around using cars. When I grow up I want to be a doctor. Other people are doctors, and they help people. When I grow up, I want to get a phone. I would like a phone to look at it to see if it is an emergency and talk to people. You can argue that somebody could steal my car or my phone. Also, I can crash having a phone in a car. But I would like a car and phone to help people.

By Marwan D., 7<sup>th</sup> gr.

Have you ever wanted to play a game at recess but you didn't have time? I want a longer recess because I have more time to play soccer with my friends. Another reason why I want a longer recess is because it gets me in a better mood. I have more time to play football and more time to play with my friend. One might think learning is important and we need to be more focused, but the weakness to that claim is that we can't learn if we can't focus. Our recess helps us focus.

By Mustaq D., 5<sup>th</sup> gr.

Schools should use textbooks vs. iPads. My first idea, iPads can be a lot of distraction to other students. There are games on iPads which can prevent students from focusing. My second reason, there are many ways you can cheat off an iPad. You could easily look up the answers online. My third reason, staring at an iPad screen is not good or healthy for kids. Your eyes will hurt very bad if you're looking

at an iPad all day. You could argue that iPads are new technology, so it will be helpful to learn with them but here's the weakness: There are so many bad effects that come out of it. Overall, textbooks are better tools for learning than iPads.

By Varun B., kindergarten

Schools need more recess time because kids who are late don't get recess. Kids can also let out their energy and can learn better. Another reason that schools need longer recess is because kids are happier at recess. Recess needs to be longer because we lose lots of time when we're late. When kids have lots of energy and don't have recess, they can't focus and learn, because they get it out during recess. Kids are happier during recess, so they should make it longer. You could argue that it gets cold outside, but there is indoor recess! That is why there should be longer recess.

By Himaneesh D., Pre-K, and his tutor

There should be more garbage trucks to clean up the neighborhood. There is a lot of litter on the ground. Sometimes, trash trucks come and accidentally pour out the garbage in the can. Other vehicles can get stuck in the garbage. Sticky plastics get stuck on cars, bikes, and all kinds of vehicles. Sometimes bad guys even throw garbage into the road to stop police. Police cars catching the bad guy won't get stuck if there were more garbage trucks picking up the trash. You could argue that garbage trucks will cause more traffic and more delay. But really, the garbage trucks would clean up the garbage, with help from construction vehicles, to make the roads cleaner and faster. In conclusion, everyone in the community would benefit from more garbage trucks.

By Malachi H., 3<sup>rd</sup> gr., and his tutor

Students should be paid for good grades because if they get paid, students will work harder. Kids will work harder if they get paid. With that money they can buy what they want. You could argue that kids don't need money, but people will be poor if they have no money. Students should be paid for good grades because then students will work hard to get rewarded.

By Michelle F., 4<sup>th</sup> gr.

I think guns should not be allowed. My first reason is that people are using guns to kill people that are innocent. For example, police kill innocent kids. My second reason is that people are shooting up schools. For example, there was a school shooting in Florida. My third reason is they could shoot policemen. For example, police are dying because criminals are killing them. You could argue that people want to protect themselves with guns, but here's the weakness. If the gun is in the home, kids can get it and shoot others or themselves. Guns can be good, but overall, they are really bad for everyone.

By Marilu G., 4<sup>th</sup> gr.

I think students should wear uniforms in school. The first reason is that it's not offensive clothing. If someone had religious beliefs and someone wears something that was offensive, the person might be hurt. Also uniforms show school pride and unity. Someone can feel like part of a community. Uniforms are less distracting. It takes less time to think about what you are wearing. Instead of spending 15 minutes deciding what you are wearing, you can work on math.

You could argue that students should not wear uniforms to school, that instead we can wear regular clothing to school. But here's the weakness: then we are not united. Students should wear uniforms at school.

By Marco O., 7<sup>th</sup> gr.

There are too many potholes on Chicago streets, and they need to be paved. My reason for that is I always see and hear when a car hits a pothole. My parents always hit potholes, and it makes me jump off the seat. Some cars get damaged from hitting potholes because they hit one, and the next day the tire is flat. Some people will think that the roads don't need to be paved because their street roads are fine, but some people's are not. This is what I think should be done with potholes. They need to be paved.

By Jason R., 3<sup>rd</sup> gr.

Here's what I think Students should not have homework. It's hard, because then I can't find the answers. It's too much to do, because we have to do it every four days. We do almost the same homework every day. You could argue that it helps you memorize. But here's the weakness. I have to memorize every 7 hours. Homework should be illegal!!!

By Norma A., 5<sup>th</sup> gr.

I think that Chicagoans should be more respectful and clean up for themselves. Here are my reasons why. The sidewalks are very dirty because there are wrappers on the sidewalks. Also, the lake is polluted because there are dirty wrappers and trash in the water. My last reason is because people are destroying nature because people are drawing on the rocks by the lake. You could argue that some people pick up for themselves. But here's the weakness. A lot of people actually don't pick up for themselves. In conclusion, people need to pick up their trash and respect the city.

By Nely A., 4<sup>th</sup> gr.

I think if people are bullying you, you should use your words to make them stop.

First, if you don't use words to make them stop, the bully will get worse. This is because the bully doesn't know what they are doing.

Second, if you tell them to stop, they will understand their action. This is because they might not understand your feelings.

Third, when they don't stop bullying, they will bully more. This is because they think bullying is OK.

You can argue that fighting is better in making them stop. But if I fight back, the people will think I'm a bully.

In conclusion, you should make a bully stop with words.

By Dayveana A. B., 6<sup>th</sup> gr.

Here's what I think about bullies. I think bullying is wrong and they shouldn't do that at all. Here are my reasons. Bullying can make people feel bad about themselves. Here's my evidence. Bullying is bad because it can make people hurt themselves. Another reason is because people can be scared of themselves. Here's my evidence. Bullies can make people feel scared and not go to school. My final reason is that bullies can make people feel embarrassed. Here's my reason. They can make people feel nervous. I think bullying shouldn't happen at all. You could argue that bullies are dangerous people and can hurt you. But here's the weakness. Bullies are just doing this because maybe it happened to them when they were younger, and they decided to do it back to other people. But this is my honest opinion on bullies: I don't like them because they make people feel bad.

By Emanuelle O., 8<sup>th</sup> gr.

I think students should be allowed to bring and use their phone in school. Many schools usually don't allow students to use or even bring their phone to school. From experience, my principal decided to not allow any students to use their phones in school or outside of the school.

Here are my reasons I think students should be allowed to bring and use their phones in school. One of my reasons why students should use their phones is that students could call for help in case of emergency. Many schools could have intruders breaking into their schools who could hurt students and teachers. That's why, if students have their phone in hand, they could easily call the police if they see someone suspicious. Some people can argue that the teacher could simply use their own phone or have a lockdown but if a student is in the bathroom during a lockdown, they can call for help or call someone for help.

Another reason why students should have their phones is that students could check in with their parents to tell them they're safe. For example, some students ride the bus alone to get home, and if they were robbed or attacked they could simply run away and call their parents and the police. They can use their phone to check in with their parents while on a bus.

My last reason why students should have their phones in school is that students could use them in lunch/recess. They could use them in lunch instead of class. Also, students who aren't that social could get more social and have more friends.

There are flaws in my argument. You could say that students could get cyber-bullied during class or lunch. My counter argument is that students choose to be in social media. It's an option. No one is forcing them.

In conclusion, students should be able to use their phones during school. They need the freedom.

By Phyllis R., 6<sup>th</sup> gr.

I think the cafeteria should have better lunch. I think this because the food isn't healthy or good. Kids don't like the food, and they throw it away, which wastes money.

Also, students would get better grades with better lunches. If they go to class with an empty stomach, they won't focus. If they don't

focus, they don't learn. If they don't learn, they fail. If they fail, they won't get into a good high school or college.

They would also get sick, which means they will be absent. They will miss out on all of their classes.

People may think good lunches cost more money, but the benefit is worth it. The children won't pass with poor lunches. The evidence shows that our schools should get better food.

By Rodrigo A., 3<sup>rd</sup> gr.

There's a lot of crime in my neighborhood because people aren't following the law. People are shooting each other. Someone got shot on Argyle just this week. People are stealing stuff from other people. My dad's bike got stolen. People are stealing things from stores, like food, toys, and devices. You could argue that a policeman watches the neighborhood if there's a problem. But the weakness is that the police don't watch everything, so the criminals might get away. There's a lot of crime in my neighborhood.

By Zakiyya B., 2<sup>nd</sup> gr., and her tutor

I think that people with mental conditions should be taken to rehabilitation centers instead of jail if they break the law.

Some people can't control their actions. For example, Y----- has multiple personality disorder, so he can't control himself when he turns into Melvin.

Sometimes people make mistakes. For example, 6ix9nine was caught selling drugs. He probably regrets his mistakes.

We can lower the jail population. Jails in American are too full. If we put people into rehab, the jails won't be so full.

You could argue that people with mental disabilities should not be treated differently from other criminals because they have committed the same crime. However, people with mental conditions don't have the same ability to control themselves.

Because of all of this, people with mental conditions should go to rehab instead of jail.

By Leydi A., 6<sup>th</sup> gr.

There is a lot of shooting in Chicago. People get shot every month. There was a shooting on the South Side. People die from a lot of shootings, like every year. A couple years ago they shot a really young boy. People that are bad sometimes they end up dead. There

was a shooting in my neighborhood and they killed a really bad guy. Some people think that shooting is necessary. But shooting is bad. It doesn't matter.

By Yaritza, 5<sup>th</sup> gr.      GARBAGE PROBLEM

In my neighborhood there's a lot of garbage near trees, which can damage them. This shows everyone that there are people littering. This is evident because there are three bags of chips next to the tree, one bag of McDonald's in front, and five wrappers on the other side of the tree. Since there is garbage left out, this leads to pests, which can go into our homes, and now we have pests living under our garbage cans. Smokers also litter, and when they are done, they step on it and leave it.

Some people would argue with me and say, "The neighborhood is doing the best it can to stop littering."

Then I would say, "We can make a large bowl made of stone for cigarettes. We can get more garbage cans, and get pest control, poison, and traps. Next time, find a garbage can and don't be lazy!"

By Berenice, 4<sup>th</sup> gr.      ROAD SAFETY

People don't drive safely on the street. The police don't check on people that don't drive safely because the police don't have time. The people drive fast because they are in a hurry to go to work. People are distracted on the road -- sometimes people are on the phone. You could say that technology in the cars is getting better. It makes you safer. But technology can stop working. Safety needs to improve.

By Korah W., 5<sup>th</sup> gr.

Here's what I think, that you're supposed to suspend kids that have a lot of arguments. Suspension will keep fights from happening. If they're not there, how can a fight happen? It can prevent fights from happening because they're not beside each other. This keeps other kids safe, because nobody could get hit! You could argue that they should try to get along. But there's an opportunity that they can still get in fights. So there's the reason why kids can be suspended.

By Maukeyla J., 7<sup>th</sup> gr.

Here's what I think. People need to go around and pick up all trash.



People need to pick up their trash and not throw it on the ground. There's so much trash that's on the streets.

People need to put trash in the trash cart. There's too much trash on the side of the trash can.

There's a lot of trash around the environment. People need to pick up their trash.

Some people might say that there isn't a lot of trash. But if you go around their house, you'll see they have trash around their house.

People need to put their trash in the trash can and not on the ground.

By Erin C., 2<sup>nd</sup> gr.

Here's what I think. My neighborhood needs to be cleaner. It makes people get sick. Some people might get hurt. It would help the environment if my neighborhood was cleaner.