

EDITORIALS

INSPIRED YOUTH WRITING Vol. 29, No.4

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By Reaisha J., 3rd gr.

There is too much violence in Chicago; Innocent people have died in shootings. This shows shooting violence. Gang members go on the streets and shot people. This shows gang violence. People have been shooting African Americans because of their skin tone. This shows police violence.

I could argue that you will not listen to me, a little girl, but you will be sorry for ignoring me. But here's the weakness: Too much gang and police and gun violence should stop!! Only people who are police and a gang member will be the only people on earth. We want peace on our earth. I hope you change some day, and if you don't you're always God's son or daughter.

By Raul V., 1st gr.

We need running trails for kids. It makes you healthier. It's good for your heart. It keeps your muscles strong. You can't run on streets because you might hit someone. It is fun to run.

You could argue that there are many parks. It costs money to build trails. But here's the weakness about running in parks, you might bump into somebody's head. In conclusion, running makes you healthier.

By Sara G., 4th gr.

People in China should not eat dogs, cats, and birds because my first reason is that pets have diseases that can make people ill. For example, pets carry fleas and ticks. Second, they have families and feelings. For example, the person who owns the pet would miss them. Thirdly, pets make people happy, and eating them makes them heart-broken. This is true because a pet is a part of your family, and if a person would die you would cry.

Some people could argue that they need food and think pets taste good. This argument is weak because what if they ate their own pets, and people can cause a fight. Dogs are the man's/woman's best friends, and cats are soft and cuddly, and birds are company to people and all friends.

By Dayveana B., 4th gr.

I think people should clean up after their dog. First, people can step in it. This is bad because people can mess up their pretty shoes. Next, people should clean up after their dog because it can hurt the plants. It's bad for plants to die because they are too pretty. Finally, it is not nice to mess up people's property. Dog poop on your property makes it look bad.

You could argue that it is too much work to clean up after your dog, but it would be worth it because you can get people's shoes messy if you don't clean up after your dog. After all this, it should be clear to clean up after your dog.

By Layla S., 2nd gr.

Boys and girls should not be in separate classes. One reason is that boys and girls are family. For example, Amreen and Abdule are cousins and it is easier to learn with family. Also, boys and girls are friends. In fact, my friend is a boy and it is good to have friends in your class. Finally, it is important because you get to meet new people. That means you get to make new friends.

You could argue that boys and girls fight, but here's the weakness: Lots of boys and girls are friends. Boys and girls are stronger together.

By Shannon C., 4th gr.

Students should be paid for good grades because that would reward them for good work. If students were paid, kids who slack would work harder. Another reason to pay students for good grades is that school ratings will be higher.

Some people might say that the kids will just spend it on junk food, but many students would save the money. Paying would be good for their education because it will be a good message for them to study harder.

By Carlos F., 4th gr.

No running in school. You can get hurt. My friend got hurt. Teachers don't like it. My teacher yelled at my friend. You can get in trouble. You can get a detention. The weakness: You can be late to class if you don't run, but I would rather be late than get hurt. Overall, I think running is bad for school.

It's Too Hot in School!

By Ashley, Pre-School, and Lindsay, 8th gr.

In the spring/summer it's way too hot in school! When it's hot in my school, it's hard to work! I sweat a lot in school, and it's gross and distracting. Without air-conditioning/fans, the humidity is high.

You could argue that it's it too hot, but just the right temperature. The temperature doesn't disrupt my learning. This argument fails to consider that some people are more affected with the temperature than others. As a school, we can't afford good air-conditioning; this heat constantly disrupts my learning experience. We need to take action and fix this issue.

By Prithviraj N., 2nd gr.

I believe there should be more parks in my neighborhood. Here are my reasons. Kids can go and play, parks are a lot of fun, and you can make new friends. Kids can go play in parks while getting good exercise. Parks are a lot of fun because we get to try things like new swings. You can also make new friends. For example, I can meet my friend Donovan there. Some may say kids don't want to play in a park. But here's the weakness: most kids like the park and have fun in it. In conclusion, there should be more parks in my neighborhood.

By Eduardo F., 5th gr.

The problem I have and a lot of people have is that there is TOO MUCH DOG POOP. These are the reasons I think why: dog owners are lazy because they

don't want to bend down. Also I think the owners are disgusted with their dog's poop. They look at their dog's poop and don't want to pick it up. And my third reason I think that owners don't pick up their dog poop is because they are unprepared and that maybe because they don't have lots of experience, or maybe because they forgot their bags.

Some people say we shouldn't worry because most of the poop is in grass and they walk on sidewalks, and they say that there are cars and transportation, so not a lot of people walk around. But when people walk on sidewalks, there is poop, too, and when people park their car, maybe dog poop can be there. So I think that we should let owners know that we are disgusted.

By Jordynn J., 1st gr., and her tutor, 8th gr.

Here's what I think: There is a lot of trash and litter in my neighborhood. Here are my reasons: I see stuff like McDonald's wrappers on the ground. The McDonald's wrappers are not good for the earth. People don't throw away their trash. There would be less trash if people picked it up. People don't pick up trash when they see it. If people picked up the trash, then it wouldn't be there.

You could argue that there's not that much trash. But the trash that is there will build up and there will be more. If people picked up their trash, the earth and our neighborhood would be cleaner.

By David C., 1st gr., and his tutor, 8th gr.

Students should be paid for good grades. It will make students have something to look forward to. Being paid will make students be better. Another reason is that students will be more focused when they learn if they know they will get money for good grads. Then students would learn more. You will also work harder, and that will help you in your future. You are learning to be a good worker.

You could argue that students will make themselves smarter and students should work hard anyway. But here's the weakness: not being paid, a person won't work hard. Being paid makes one work harder.

By Alex O., 1st gr., and his tutor

I think schools should start later in the morning. Students would be more focused. Kids who get more sleep will be more focused in classes. It would allow kids to work on homework and do activities more. As kids grow older they pick up more activities and homework and need time to do it right. As you get older, your grain tells you to go to bed later and wake up later. Teens' brains are wired so they go to bed later and wake up later

You could argue that school's getting out later conflicts with activities. Here's the weakness, they could do some activities before school, and older kids have their activities later at night. School should start later in the morning.

By Haba B., 4th gr.

Imagine you are a 3rd grader. Your stomach starts to growl. You look up at the clock. It is 11:30, but you don't have lunch until 12:20.

Unfortunately, this is a problem many grades 3d through 5th grade deal with today. I think that 3rd through 5th grade should have lunch second instead of last.

One reason we should eat lunch second is because we are younger. Younger people get hungry faster than middle schoolers. This is one reason why 3rd-5th graders should have lunch second. Another reason we should have lunch second is because we eat lunch really late. We eat lunch at 12:20, and that is too late for our age to eat. It would be better if we eat before the middle schoolers so we cannot eat lunch that late. It is hard to focus in class when you are hungry. We start thinking of food and not the lesson. Eating lunch before middle schoolers could solve this problem.

The other side can argue by saying the middle schoolers could be upset if they have lunch last. This argument is wrong because the middle schoolers should handle having lunch last better than 3rd through 5th graders can. Next time you hear a kid complain about having a late lunch, know that they have many reasons to complain.

By Ria K., 4th gr.

Here's what I think. It is very cold in Chicago. Here are my reasons! The temperature drops down below freezing. Here's proof. On December 19th it was -10 degrees Fahrenheit. There are also cold icy winds. Here's my experience: One day I was looking out my window and I saw that the wind had knocked down one of the traffic lights. Also, hail can break car windows. My evidence is that I read in an article that sometimes hail is so strong that it can break car windows.

You could argue that you like to play in the snow. But here's the weakness: If there is too much snow, then people won't be able to walk or drive. That's why I think it is really cold in Chicago.

By Melissa I., 3rd gr., and her tutor, 8th gr.

I think people should recycle more. One reason is that there's lots of garbage on the streets. When I walk around I see people throw garbage on the streets and they don't pick it up. If people recycle more, there would be less garbage on the streets. Another reason that people should recycle more is that it helps the environment. When people recycle, things are reused and there is less trash. Reusing things is good because it helps the environment. The last reason to recycle more is because it makes people happy. When the environment around them is cleaner, people are happier.

You could argue that it's harder to recycle than just to throw stuff away. However, recycling is actually easy. When you recycle, you reduce the amount of landfill and trash on the streets, so life is better for everyone. Recycling will help the world become a better, cleaner place.

By Miguel O., 7th gr.

I think my school is haunted because the fire alarm went off for a whole day. The school was burned down 50 years ago and was replaced and looked creepy. There was a blackout for a day. Some people might not think it's haunted

because nobody has gotten hurt, but they are wrong because it's still haunted. Overall, my school is haunted because of these three reasons.

Students should be able to keep their phones,

By Angel W., 7th gr.

Students should be able to keep their phones because not all teachers are good at being responsible with students' phones. For example, if there is a sub, they could possibly just leave the bucket of phones out in the open and other people could steal them. The second reason students should be able to keep their phones is because it prepares you for school later in life, because you're allowed to keep your phone in high school and college, so if you learn early on responsibility skills with your personal belongings. The third and final reason students should be allowed to keep their phones is because they learn self-control skills by knowing when you should and shouldn't use your devices.

You could argue that students could easily become distracted with phones because they don't have control. But here's the weakness: Letting them keep their phones can help you learn control skills that will be needed later on in life. That's my overall thought on why students should keep their phones.

How School Could Be a Better Place

By Gregorio F., 5th gr.

I think many things could be improved at Walt Disney Magnet Elementary School. My first reason is we have too many excess I pads. This could be a good thing if any I pad breaks, then we could have a replacement. The bad thing about this is if we keep buying replacements we will lose money. We have 3,500 kids, but have 3,700 I pads. With the excess I pads they could be donated to other schools that don't have I pads.

My second reason Disney could be a better place is less bullying. Bullying tends to hurt people either physically or emotionally last year, three eighth grades picked up another eighth grade and dropped him on the concrete and broke his neck. If people keep breaking bones, Disney will get a bad reputation. This may cause it to close down.

My third reason Disney could be a better place is it could receive more funds. The payment Disney gets for each student is little. Also if the school has more money, we will get more electronics. In conclusion, I think school could be a better place in general.

By Jason R., 1st gr.

There are too many kids in classes in my school. Not enough attention is paid to the kids. Only kids who need a lot of help get it. There's not enough time to work with teachers, so it's hard to get better. It's hard to learn because there's too much talking out of turn.

You could argue that it takes money to hire more teachers, but here's the weakness: people waste money on other stuff. If we had more teachers, we would have fewer kids in classes, and kids would get more attention and learn more.

By Dennis I., 4th gr.

Teens should not buy violent video games. If teens have a big test and they don't study, they can fail. My friend does not study but he plays video games. These kids might be violent in real life. They can do bad stuff in games. When a kid plays it, then a teen might use bad language. They like violent video games because they think it's fun. But there are other good video games, like Mario. Teens should not buy bad video games. It's a bad influence.

By Phyllis Rimmer, 4th gr.

My article is about Donald Trump. Here are some reasons why I don't like him. I don't like him because he is racist. Also he is starting segregation. Lastly, he is lowering health care.

I don't like him because he is starting drama. My reason is that he has people marching, and people die when they march. He is racist because he is judging Mexico. My reason is that he is trying to build a wall over them. He is starting back segregation. My last reason is that he is trying to separate different religions because he has been rude to different peoples' shades of skin. My strong finish is he is lowering health care.

This is what someone who has a different opinion than I do would say. He is not a racist because he is making America great again. But here's the weakness. I think that he is racist because he is judging people's culture and skin.

By Marco O., 5th gr.

It is bad for kids in my school to fight. If they fight, kids will get kicked out. They will get kicked out because the school has a rule that you can't fight. The second reason is they might shut down because there is not going to be enough students to teach. My final reason is that if kids keep fighting and the school gets shut down, teachers will lose their jobs. If there are no students to teach, they won't earn money.

You could argue that because if kids keep fighting the school might shut down, but here's the weakness, more kids will come each year. In conclusion, it's bad for kids to fight in my school.

By Andre M., 1st gr.

I think fighting is bad. The reason I think this is because fighting can get people hurt. One time I was shoved and I fell on my head. Another reason fighting is bad is because fighting is bad for our community. It makes people bad in my neighborhood. Another reason fighting is bad is fighting at school can get you in trouble. I got in trouble for fighting and got sent to the office. You could argue that fighting gets anger out. But here's the weakness, people get hurt from fighting. Fighting is bad.

By Leonela C., 6th gr.

I believe that nature parks in Chicago should be cleaner. Some reasons are that the health of the animals in the parks could be at risk, the people enjoy going to those parks to interact with animals, and in a clean park people will stay there longer.

My first reason is the health of the animals there could be at risk. If there is garbage in the nature parks, the animals there might eat it, get sick, and possibly die.

My second reason is the people enjoy going to those parks to interact with animals, so if there is garbage, there won't be any animals for the people to see and interact with.

My third reason is in a clean park people will stay there longer. Usually people hate dirty environments, so if they are in a park that is dirty, they will probably not be there anymore.

A person might say, "People won't even care about animals OR nature. They would just keep throwing garbage." But here's what I would say, "Yes, some people will not even care, but other people will. So people may clean up for what they love."

Nature is just like us. We need care. When we don't have care, we can't do things right. Have a heart.

By Aziza D., 5th gr.

The Trump Tower is full of doubt and bragging. President Trump should not be represented in such a big way. First, he's racist. For example, he kicked Muslims out of America because of Isis. And when he had a press conference, he said, "Look at that African American." Next he has too much money to be President. For example, he was on T.V. and said, "I get what I want," while people need food. Lastly, he kicks people out of American because of Isis and they weren't citizens. For example, he said at the airport that he'll kick them out because he said, "I want to city to be safe."

You could argue that he does have a point; Isis maybe has sent them, and it is not safe; he might be doing something good. But here's the weakness: People need to see families and explore Chicago, and he's taking that from boys and girls. So Trump Tower should not represent him I a good way.

By Yaritza A., 3rd gr.

People in my neighborhood shouldn't litter. Here are my reasons. It wastes trees. People keep using paper, and it kills trees. It affects animals. Animals could eat litter and get sick. When you swim, it is dirty; there is trash in the lake. Littering is bad for the environment.

You could argue that not a lot of people litter. But here is the weakness: Some people still litter and the environment will be destroyed in the future. Littering is bad for the environment.

By Nathan B., 7th gr.

I believe that schools should serve better lunches. Not only will it make people healthier, but also happier and more looking forward to lunch.

If schools continue to serve bad lunches, people will still fall sick. In New Jersey seven students and a teacher caught salmonella from school lunches. It also makes lunch more enjoyable for the teachers and students who eat it. After all, who would want to eat bad food instead of good food?

Some may argue that some kids don't eat school lunch. The reasons kids bring their lunch is because the school lunches are so bad. We could stop wasting so much money on bad food and put that money toward improving the quality of school lunches. We could put out a survey at the beginning of the school year asking if students plan to eat school lunch or bring their own so cafeteria workers can purchase the right amount of food without wasting.

While some students have a choice about bringing in their lunch, others don't because they are poor. It would be bad for the poor students because their parents may not be able to afford food at home. Students have to eat school lunches or go hungry.

Finally, improving school lunches could be expensive. Money could be saved by getting rid of school breakfast in order to improve the quality of school lunch.

By Yadira D., 1st gr., and her tutor

People should plant flowers in Chicago for gardens. They are pretty and they are good for the earth.

By Esthefany, 7th gr., and her tutor, Niamh, 8th gr.

Schools need a stricter policy for bullying. Bullies always get away with bullying other people most of the time. For example, my friend got made fun of. People said many horrible things to her, and no one stopped them. Also, it's hard to stand up to bullies by yourself. When my friend was getting bullied, I tried to stop it, but they made fun of me, too. Finally, some adults don't know how to help you without making it worse. I went to an adult and they said, "Just ignore them," but it made things worse.

You could argue that students need to stand up to bullies. But it's hard to stand up by yourself, and it's scary to confront a bully. Therefore, schools need to stop bullying before it's worse than it already is.

By Ria K., 4th gr., and Eisele, 8th gr., her tutor

Here's what I think: We should make Chicago less crowded. Here are my reasons: People can get hurt. Here's my evidence. People can slip on banana peels, and if there are so many people, then there would be lots of banana slips.

People won't have enough space for parking cars. If there re too many people driving cars, there might not be enough room to park cars.

People can also crash their cars. Here's my evidence. If there are too many people there cannot be so much space on roads.

You could argue that we want to hang out with a lot of our friends. But here's the weakness. You could still hang out with your friends, but not bring too many friends.

We should make Chicago less crowded because people can get hurt, there's not enough space for parking, and finally, people can crash their cars.

By Marilu G., 2nd gr.

Art is fun because you can color. You can choose your favorite color. You can draw. I like art because you can draw a cat. Art is fun because you can do it with your friends. You can have fun with your friends, and they can have fun with you. I think art is fun because you can do a beautiful flower with your friends.

By Carlos C., kind., and Will, his tutor, 8th gr.

Cars are too fast in Chicago. Carlos struggles to cross the street in Chicago because the fast cars make it hard to cross the street. Sometimes cars go over the speed limit. Carlos sees cars to faster than most cars on the streets. People feel like they can break the rules. A friend his tutor has seen cars speed down the street. You could argue that not all cars are fast. But here's the weakness. A lot of them are. We should enforce rules on speeding to make sure kids are safe.

By Donovan., kind., and his tutor, 8th gr.

I think that the city should make tougher sword laws. Swords can hurt people. Swords are sharp. Unsafe people have guns. People need swords. Lots of safe people die because unsafe people kill them. People with swords are unsafe.

Kids need to stop being bullied. It's mean because they are hurting the other person. Kids get hurt because the bully could get violent. Kids cry because the bully was mean to them. You could argue that bullying makes kids stronger. But here's the weakness. Bullying is mean and can really hurt kids. Kids need to stop being bullied.

By Jamyla, 8th gr. (the beginning of an essay)

You should not pay to get into high school. Parents might not have enough money. We shouldn't have to pay if we are forced to. You could argue that paying to go to high school helps the school get better. But here's the weakness, if you can't pay, then you can't go. People should not have to pay to get into high school.

By Rosalinda, 8th gr., and her tutor

People should recycle more. It is good for the environment because it reduced the amount of landfills. It helps our community come together. It makes service projects for the community. It makes people feel better about their world. They aren't living in a trash-polluted world. You could argue that even though people think they are too lazy to recycle, they could just put a recycling bin next to the trash can. The city should scare them into recycling.

By Zakiyya B., kind., and her tutor, 8th gr.

I think there are too many kids in the classroom. There is only one teacher for 26 kids, and she can't help every student. Last year, the teacher couldn't have a Valentine's Day party for all the kids. Lots of kids don't listen to the teacher. Too many kids are loud, so the teacher has to scream at them. There aren't enough school supplies for everyone; there aren't enough glue sticks for everyone. You could argue that if there were a lot of kids, then it's easier to make friends. But here's the weakness: That's not true, because not every kid is nice or friendly. In conclusion, there are too many kids in the classroom.

By Alejandro S., 6th gr.

Students shouldn't have to wear uniforms. Some students don't like the color. The school color is not everyone's favorite color. Everyone looks the same with the uniforms. The uniforms have a collar and I don't like wearing shirts with a collar. Students could wear what they like. They could wear their favorite color.

You could argue that students should wear uniforms because if the students go on a field trip and they get lost, other people will know what group they belong to. But here's the weakness: they should always stick together so they don't get lost. This is why I think students shouldn't have to wear uniforms.

By Betania D., 5th gr.

I believe that better police are needed in Chicago. Too much crime is happening in Chicago. In 2016 there were many robberies. Chicago is not a very safe environment. If we get better police, we get more safety. Some policemen are recorded as racist.

You could argue that there is not good enough training for police. But here's the weakness: There is always crime happening. It would help the community if there were better police.

By Itzel V., 4th gr.

Here is what I think: there should be no more violence. There is too much killing. When someone dies their families are sad. People also get sick on drugs. This is why there should be no more violence or drugs.

By Alex R., 6th gr.

They should take guns out of the streets to stop violence. Bad persons would have guns and then they will shoot other people. In countries where they don't allow guns, their violence level is really low. If people have guns, they will murder innocent people. In the news it says people are murdering children. If people have guns they will be stealing and robbing banks. The persons or robbers will be robbing banks because they have guns.

You could argue that if you take guns out of the street, people wouldn't be able to protect themselves. But here's the weakness, if people wanted to protect themselves, what would they want to be protected from if there are no guns? Guns should be taken out of the streets to stop violence.

By Cherish T., 3rd gr., and her tutor

They should not test human products on animals. It could hurt the animals. The product could react differently on humans. You could argue that they are more worried about the people than the animals. But here's the weakness, animals are just as important as people. In conclusion, they should not test human products on animals because it is bad to hurt animals.

By Josphine A., 9th gr.

I think guns should be hard to get. There are lots of shootings occurring here in the U.S. For example, in 2010 there were almost 1.4 billion people who got shot yearly. There are people who use guns, but it's not necessary. Other young people are using the guns. There're people who we don't want to use these types of weapons. There are people who use the guns without safety, which makes people get scared, when other people use it around them. The types of people who we don't want to use the guns are people who are emotional or who have peer pressure. However, there are people that could argue saying that they could protect themselves, whenever they are in trouble. However, there's a reason for this. If people don't have guns, they don't need to worry about things. Therefore, there are people who have guns in their homes knowing they have kids living there. But I think guns should be hard to get.

By Fernando B., 8th gr.

There is too much violence in Chicago. On the South Side there has been a lot of violence because people don't have as much as we do. The government gave the people permission to carry guns as long as they have a permit. But here's the weakness: Because people can carry guns, there has been lots of violence. There are too many guns and too much violence in Chicago.

By Sean McC., 3rd gr., and his tutor

The city of Chicago should be nice to everyone and accept them for who they are. There should be less hate, so less shooting. People kill because they are mad.