

EDITORIALS

INSPIRED YOUTH WRITING

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Written by the PS-8th graders
of the Inspired Youth Tutoring Program,
with help from their tutors.

By Raul V., 2nd gr. Here's what I think.
There should be no smoking in my
neighborhood.

Here are my reasons. People get
sick. They cough when they smoke, and
their lungs get dry. It smells really bad. I
start coughing after I smell the smoke. It
is not good for me. Second hand
smoking makes your head hurt.

You could argue that smoking makes
people calm down, but here's the
weakness: It can make you feel really
sick. It's unhealthy.

Overall, smoking makes people sick.
It smells really bad, and it is not good for
me.

By Viridiana A., 3rd gr.

Here's what I think.... The Olympics are
better than any other sporting event.

Here are my reasons! There are
many different sports. Figure skating,
snowboarding, and bobsled riding are all
in the Olympics.

Another reason is the people have
more experience with the sports. Only
the best of the best are in the Olympics.

Another reason is the sports are
more fun to watch. Skating is more fun
to watch than football.

You can argue that the Olympics are
the worst sporting event. But here's the
weakness... The Olympics are so
different than anything else. When it
comes to sporting events, nothing beats
the Olympics.

By Leydi A., 5th gr.

There should be more swings in the
playground. There are not enough
swings. And with more swings people
can have their chance. People always
fight over a swing. Sometimes there is
not enough pretty stuff, so we can add
swings. Also, some people don't like to
swing. Some people like to swing and
some don't. We should add more
swings.

By Laniya Robinson, 6th gr.

Stop littering bodies of water. Littering
kills animals. We could die if we drank
the dirty water. If the animals die, we will
lose jobs for fishermen and food. For
example, we could be killing fishes,
crabs, and turtles when we're littering.
People in the Flint water crisis also can
die, too. The food chain wouldn't be the
same if the animals die. We could say
polluting water saves time and energy
for humans. Even though it's easy for
humans to pollute, it can affect the food
chain and earth. People shouldn't litter
in water because it kills animals,
humans, and the food chain will suffer.

By Marilu G., 3rd gr.

I don't like the school playground.
Goudy School does not have swings. It
will not be fun without swings. Also,
Goudy does not have water to get wet.
You will be hot and sweaty. That's why
we need water. Goudy School does not
have a spin wheel. We will not have fun
as the other kids that have it.

You could argue that it costs too
much money. But here's the weakness.
It's more important to have fun.

I don't like the school playground
because it does not have swings and no
water to get wet, also no spin wheel.

By Nathan B., 8th gr.

My name is Nathan B., and I believe that favoritism is shown by teachers. Teachers would talk in a certain way to a specific person. A teacher would yell at you for doing something wrong while another student does the same thing and gets handled in a totally opposite way. This has personally happened to me before, and I feel that this needs to be stopped.

Teachers don't give the benefit of the doubt to every student they give to certain students. This has happened to one of my close friends that I had. Favoritism is a violation of the 14th amendment which protects the equal right for all fair treatment. On the other hand, teachers handle certain students because of their background and behavior.

There is a counter argument to that claim because at the end of the day students should be handed the same work.

My name is Nathan B., and favoritism is a real problem.

By Eduardo F., 6th gr.

Poverty is a horrible thing and should stop. The poor people would die if they don't have food. If you don't have water for two days you can die, and if they don't have food for one or two weeks they can die. Also, if they don't have any shelter and it's cold, they can die. Another problem with poverty is that they might not have a family, and they don't have anyone to trust or to go with. We can argue that we can use the money for other stuff like the army, but the weakness is that the people that are poor need more help than the Army. They have enough planes and guns to

fight, but the poor people have nothing. In conclusion, poverty needs to be abolished.

By Alejandro S., 7th gr.

Guns should be banned everywhere. Too many people are dying. People who aren't in the shooting are getting shot. They are getting shot at because of what they are wearing. The shooting makes neighborhoods unsafe because there are too many shootouts that make people not go to that neighborhood. Guns should be banned because of all the shooting that has happened with the school shootings and what happened when people killed cops.

By Michelle F., 3rd gr.

I don't like the playground at Goudy School. Here are my reasons. First, there are no swings, so the playground is boring. Second, there are not too many slides, so there are too many kids in the other slides. Third, the ground is too rough, so when kids fall down their knees scratch. You could argue that that's the best the school can do because they don't have too much money. But here's the weakness: They could save money. Those are the reasons why I don't like the school playground. The playground is important to me because when I get there, I want to enjoy it.

By Ashley S., kindergarten

The neighborhood is too dangerous, so they should have more police. There are too many bad people, and the police can stop crime. Too many people drive badly, and the police can stop cars. There is too much fighting, and the police can stop fights. You could argue that the police can get good people in

trouble. But the police get more bad people in trouble. The police are good for the neighborhood.

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By Rodrigo, 3rd gr.

Here's what I think: Chicago is a nice place. I see city workers clear the street. The city workers ride on a blue truck. Every building has trash cans. On Mondays the garbage man comes to pick up the garbage can to empty it. They always clean the beaches and parks. At the parks there are garbage cans and we put garbage in it. Sometimes people leave the garbage in the neighborhood because they're lazy to go throw the garbage out. I like Chicago because it's clean.

By Tyra R., 3rd gr.

I think we should stop bullying. First, I see people cry, and bullying makes them sad. I see people being mean, and it is not nice. I see people thinking they're cool, but they're not. You can argue that bullying makes people strong. But here's the weakness: It makes people sad. That's why we should stop bullying.

By Malachi H., 2nd gr.

My neighborhood is too loud. They play loud music, yell and shout. They play their loud music at 1am and I can't sleep.

There are loud dogs. I get mad at barking dogs. Dogs bark as people pass. It's quiet during the day, but no one's home then. My neighborhood needs to be quiet.

By Alexander O., 2nd gr. "Mean People"

There are too many mean people. They fight, and I saw them fighting. They kick, and they kicked other people. They say bad words; I heard them in the lunch room.

Some people say you can ignore the mean people. But they will still be mean to other people. You should try to be friends so they will be nice.

By Baron F., 4 yrs. old

We should stop bullying by making people more aware. They push people around. People could get injured if they fall. They steal. It's other people's money, and the person it gets taken from is sad. They bring gum to school. They stick gum in places and they aren't supposed to bring it to school.

You could argue that bullies make people more tough on the inside. But here's the weakness, people could get hurt in the process. They make people sad, but if we fix this, they'll be happy.

By Rachel F., 4 yrs. old

I think there should be better clean-up in the neighborhood. There are a lot of dead rats. There is lots of garbage, which is unhealthy for the environment. There are too many bugs, and they can bite you. You could argue that you can just change houses. But here's the weakness. It costs too much money and you won't have money to eat. There should be a cleanup of the dirty things in the neighborhood.

By Ifunanya O., 3rd gr.

There's too much littering in Chicago. One example of this is when you are walking around Chicago you see candy wrappers on the ground. There is a lot of them! Additionally, kids throw their trash all over parks. The parks are covered in

trash from kids littering. Lastly, having too much litter in Chicago is not healthy, and it pollutes the air. Kids and adults all litter in Chicago

Some people could say, "Please pick up after themselves," but I've seen people throw trash on the ground! So don't litter in Chicago.

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By Dayveana B., 5th gr.

We need to do something about bullies in school. They can make people join the gang because they will tell them if you don't join, my team will hurt you. They will take their anger out on other people. When they come to school they're mad, but it's not at the person they are bullying. They're mad at someone at home. They do it all the time because the person being bullied will say "Stop," but the bully will do it again. For example, they will push them or shove them into the locker—not just once but twice or all the time. You could argue that there are too many bullies to make them stop. But here's the weakness: If there are too many of the bullies we should gather all principals at each and every school. They need to stop instantly--as in now!

By Lydmar A., kindergarten

My friends say bad words. They get annoyed when I write, then they get annoyed and say bad words. They say words like "stupid," and "dumb." They say bad words to other people, like boys and girls. They shouldn't say these bad words.

By Bianca V., kindergarten

I think friends should be nice. First of all, being nice makes everyone happy. If

someone gives you a pencil when you need one, it makes you happy. Next, if friends are nice, everyone does better in school. If someone is mean to you, you will be distracted in school. Finally, it's good to know how to be nice because when you're older and want a job, you won't get one if you're mean. You could argue that it's hard to be nice but in the end, it's worth it. So, overall, friends should be nice because it's better for EVERYONE!!!

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By Reaisha J., 4th gr. Homelessness
Homelessness is not right. It is a dangerous world because if they are homeless, that can put them in violent situations. They have no extra things because they don't have showers or clothes after they leave the house. They have no homes to live in because they have left or never paid the bills. You can argue that no, we should let them be homeless. It's their fault anyway!! But here's the weakness. It's our job to gather people to make the world better than what it is now. We need to stop with the homelessness and build a big shelter.

By Jessica K., 1st gr., and her tutor

A problem in my school is that too any kids are being mean. People say mean things which makes you feel sad. Also, kids get into fights which can be dangerous. Finally, people push, which hurts. You could argue that kids aren't really getting hurt and kids aren't being mean. They are just lying if they say they aren't mean. Overall, we should try to be kind to everyone.

By Jason R., 2nd gr.

We need to have a longer recess for the following reasons. We need more fresh

air. We need to breathe so we can be healthy and exercise. We need more fresh oxygen, and I play by myself. We need more sun so we can get vitamin D for strong bones and teeth. For all of the above reasons I believe we should have a longer recess.

Some people could argue that longer recess would give children less time to study. People think kids fight during recess. That's not a problem. We have enough time to study. These counter arguments are not strong enough. It makes sense that our recess should be longer.

By Berenice R., 3rd gr.

I think fighting in school is bad. Fighting is bad because you can get hurt. If you get hit, you can get a bloody nose. Fighting is bad because you disrupt the class. People can't take the test. Fighting is bad because people get in trouble. Some people get suspended. Some people said that fighting is good because they said it is funny to fight. It's not funny to me. Fighting in school is bad because you get in after-school consequences.

By Phyllis R., 5th gr.

In my neighborhood there should be more police officers. There should be more police officers because there is too much violence. There are lots of shootings. People need to be there to stop the violence. When police are there, the violence stops.

The police also should be there to make sure people don't litter. There is a lot of litter, but when the police are there the littering stops. It is important to have policemen to end the violence and littering.

Some people might say it would be too expensive to have those policemen. But here's the weakness: stopping the violence is more important than the money. There needs to be more policemen in my neighborhood.

By Jacob H., 2nd gr.

Here's what I think. There's too much trash in the park. Children can't walk with cans under foot. Children will walk on trash and get sick. It's destroying nature. Plants won't get enough air. We won't have paper because the trees won't grow. You can argue that I can go door to door to tell people to stop littering, but the weakness is: Will they stop? STOP LITTERING!! 5

By Frances C., 7th gr.

I think there is too much gun violence in Chicago. One reason is that a lot of people are being killed. Almost every day the news announces that at least one person is killed. Also, people end up in hospitals. Gunshots wound people and leave them in critical condition. Lastly, gang rivals get into gun fights, but other people get hurt as well.

You can say that the level of gun violence has been going down since 2017. But, there is still too much gun violence. In fact, Chicago used to be rated #1 in the most gun violence in the U.S.

Innocent people are dying every day due to gun violence, and it isn't fair to those who do. We have to stop it.

By Sabhya L., 1st gr.

I think recess should be longer because it helps people build focus and friendships and makes people healthy. To start having longer recess can help people focus later. I know this because

when I have recess, afterwards I learn more. Next, it is healthy to have recess. When kids run around it makes them fit. Lastly, it can help build friends. When kids have longer recess it can help make friends. All in all, having longer recess is better for kids.

By Carlos F., 5th gr., and his tutor

There should be less homework at school. It takes valuable playtime away. Instead of getting exercise, we spend time on homework. Homework isn't fun. This is my experience: Homework isn't fun. It's a waste of time. Homework isn't making me any smarter. Some people say that homework makes you smarter. But homework doesn't teach me anything. Homework isn't helping me at all.

By Jordynn J., 2nd gr.

Here's what I think...there should be no smoking. One reason why is because it is too strong for babies and kids, because some kids cough. Two, you might die. Some people can have a heart attack. Three, when a baby is a newborn the parent can cause problems for the baby. The smoke can get into the baby's lungs. You could argue that smoking is good for parents because it can help them calm down. But here's the weakness because if they smoke too much, they could die. In conclusion, stop smoking.

By Itzel V., 5th gr.

I think there should not be drugs because they are unhealthy and their bodies can't handle it and people can die. Also, gangs are created to sell drugs, and they cause crime. Gangs fight over drugs and create violence.

You could argue that people selling drugs need money. But here's the weakness. It's a dangerous way to make money. Nobody gets anything good out of the drugs.

By David C., 2nd gr.

There should not be any more smoking. One reason is people can get sick. Scientists proved that smoking causes lung cancer.

Secondly, it is addictive. People keep on smoking even when they're told to stop. Finally, it affects other people. For example, people breathe the smoke that is blown out. Some people can say that cigarettes are not harmful. But the weakness is that studies that say it is harmful. Therefore, people should stop selling cigarettes.

By Marco O., 6th gr.

I think dog owners need to be more aware and clean up after their pets. I think this because of the following reasons I'm going to tell you.

My first reason is that there is always poop in my front yard, and we have to be careful. My evidence is that we don't realize it until it's too late.

My second reason is that we always are stepping on poop when we go somewhere. My evidence is when my brother and I are playing soccer we're always stepping on poop.

My final reason is that it smells bad. My evidence is that when it rains and we go outside, it stinks.

Someone could argue that owners should move their dogs off to the side. But the weakness is that some people walk to the side.

This is why owners should clean up after their dogs.

By Donovan F., 1st gr.

My friend plays around with me for no reason. I will get away from her, so she won't talk to me. I will tell the teacher. He will tell my friend to stop. She will still mess with me, but the teacher will punish her.

By Andre M., 2nd gr.

The homeless need homes and money. They need a tent because storms will happen. They need money so they could have food, because they don't have food. They can't buy homes. They don't have money. Not all homeless can be helped. The homeless are not that rich. The homeless need help.

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By Miguel O., 8th gr.

There are too many gangs, and our city should add funding to schools to add extra-curricular activities for a broad span of students to keep them off the streets. One reason is that it's dangerous for kids to be out with so many gangs. One piece of evidence is that kids can't go outside without vigilance. Another reason is that drugs are circulating through the kids. My last reason is because a lot of people are dying by getting shot by gangs. Something that people ignore is that kids still ignore the activities and still join gangs. But if kids have the change at a young age to become involved in their schools, they will keep themselves out of the streets. Funding schools would give kids the opportunity to become involved in their schools and keep themselves off the streets.

By Edgar M., 4th gr.

I think that my neighborhood is not clean. I think it is not clean because people don't clean up their mess. There are papers on the street and there are bottles and bags. I think that when they have garbage, they don't throw it in the garbage. I see garbage on the street. People don't clean after their dogs. I see poop on the street. I think they argue that Chicago is clean because they don't see garbage. The weakness of this is that we see garbage. These are my reasons why Chicago is not clean.

By Eliza A., kindergarten, and her tutor

Fighting at my school is bad. People get hurt. A boy pushed me on the slide and I hurt my head. Friends lose their friends. Two boys at my school were fighting and they stopped being friends. Fighting is bad at my school.

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

Dogs need to be kept safe. Some of the ways you can do it is to keep them inside most of the time so they don't get injured or stolen. Make sure your dogs have shoes on before they go outside so nothing gets in their paws. Make sure your dog has a collar with information so they get returned when they get lost. Make sure they have a leash on, and pick up their poop. You could argue that dogs should be free and that dogs' feet are tough. But it's more important to be sure that dogs are safe.

By Fidel V., 6th gr.

We should outlaw gum at school. Here are some reasons. Kids chew gum in school. Kids put gum under the table. Kids step in gum and make a mess on their shoes. If kids put gum on the

table, other kids will touch it and their hands will be sticky. Kids step in gum and make a mess, and the janitors have to clean it up. If kids chew gum in school, it will be distracting. You could argue that gum makes you concentrate, but it distracts others. Kids should not chew gum in school.

By Nely A., 3rd gr. and her tutor

We should clean the park so more kids can play. I don't see a lot of kids playing in the park. Cleaning the park helps kids stay healthy. There are lots of germs at the park which make the kids sick. Cleaning the park would help the environment. Because I see some animals that are getting sick.

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

There is too much violence in school. We can tell the adults and they can help stop it. They will talk to the mean people.

7

By Priscilla H. 6th gr.

Do you have something you don't like about your school or district? Well I do. District 65 in Evanston/Skokie, IL doesn't have many subs. Some days when I go to school one of my classes does not have a teacher. When one of my teachers is not at school most of the time we have to split up that class because we don't have a teacher.

Another thing I don't like about my school is the lockers. We don't have enough lockers for everyone to have their own. We have a lot of students, but not enough lockers. My class has to share the small lockers because all the others are taken. The lockers do not have enough space in them for two people. My locker is so small I have to

stuff my coat into the cubby part of my locker.

You could argue that we are fine without subs and we don't need that much space for things in our lockers, but the weakness is without subs the classes are huge and we don't have that much space in the classrooms. Also, some people have more stuff than a backpack and coats.

We need more subs and more lockers.

By Yaritza A., 4th gr.

Here's what I think: schools should get rid of uniforms. Here are my reasons why schools should get rid of uniforms. Some people can't afford the uniforms! Then, the color is too boring, and also you should wear your own style. The next reason is you get confused which person is which. You could argue that the school uniforms make you look more professional. But here's the weakness, the uniforms make kids be the same. Without the uniforms we will finally express ourselves.

8

By Zakiyya B., 1st gr., and her tutor

Stealing is bad. Stealing isn't right. When someone steals something, that person is mad. Once someone steals, more people do it, too. Someone stole something in Mariano's. If you steal, it might be bad for you. If you steal you can get arrested. You could argue that people steal food to keep themselves alive. But here's the weakness. It costs money to make that food, so you need to pay. Stealing isn't good for anyone.

By Carlos F., 5th gr.

I think my neighborhood should be better and my neighbors should be more

helpful. There are too many rats and raccoons. I saw a raccoon eating a red apple. There is too much garbage. It was in my street. My neighbors are not helpful. There is too much garbage that they throw and don't pick it up. You could argue that my neighbors are so lazy and like to be grownup. But here's the weakness, that they should live somewhere that they can be like that, and not here. I think my neighborhood needs to improve.

By Lexy V., 9th gr.

What I think is that in my neighborhood there should be less trash. Trash is harmful because animals could get harmed by trash. Also, it makes the area look dirty. On the news, I have seen that animals have been suffocated by trash. Also, when I'm walking to school, I see the trash, and it looks dirty. The trash could make the residents sick because when I walk to the store I see the dogs trying to eat the trash. Cleaning up the trash can be expensive, but safety comes first. Trash can harm animals, and it makes the area look dirty.

By Gregorio F., 6th gr, and his tutor

Trump Is Stupid

Trump should not be re-elected. One reason is he has crippled our trust in South Korea (our supposed ally). Another reason is he talks bad about our allies. My last reason is he is racist and sexist.

He has ruined our trust in South Korea; he said America is on its own. He says mean things; he has cursed live on TV. He is racist and sexist. He doesn't want black people in America.

You could argue that he won the election. But here's the weakness. He won by fear, not trust.

A lot of people don't like Trump. If he gets re-elected, he will cripple our hopes, dreams, and lives.

More on Trump and South Korea: Trump has ruined our friendship and trust that came from South Korea. Trump has stated live that the U.S.A. is on its own. In response South Korea stated that the U.S.A. doesn't seem to be an ally any more. South Koreans are the U.S.A.'s allies as well as China. Trump has caused South Korea to be vulnerable to North Korea with the so-called "Rocket Man" at the position of attack. Also, the so-called "Rocket Man" has supposedly added nitrogen missiles to his arsenal of nuclear weapons. These weapons can flatten millions of miles when they hit us, causing devastation, and for the survivors, starvation and radiation.

By Maria M., 5th gr.

There is too much crime. There are a lot of gun shots, and people are getting killed. I see it in the news. There is too much crime.

By Jeffrey V., 4th gr.

I think a park should be built at school. We could build a park because the one we have is old. It will be more fun to play with it. A new park will help people at the school. It will help people by going outside. The students will be happy. They will have more exercise and be happy. You could argue that it will be expensive, but the park will be more fun and have more things. In conclusion, a new park should be built.

By Freya J., 4th gr. and her tutor

There should be better school lunches.

Better school lunches would be healthier. I ate a healthy lunch one time and I didn't feel sick.

We need better food that kids could like. I ate lunch that I really liked, and it made me want to eat more.

Better school lunches could make kids happier. One time I ate good a lunch that made me really happy the rest of the day.

A counter argument is that better school lunches could be too expensive, but the weakness is they could have fundraisers to pay for the expensive school lunches.

In conclusion, we should have better school lunches because it would make the school better.

By Cindy A., 6th gr., and her tutor

There should be fewer guns around the world. People are getting killed just because of guns. 17 students died in Florida just because of one student and all the guns. People get free guns and are using them to kill people. People now are scared to go out with their children. There should be fewer guns around the world.