

Student Samples Modeling Effective ICED Paragraphs

HSPA Gr. 11 WRITING TASK

Writing Situation

In recent years, several school boards throughout the state have implemented a policy known as the C Rule, which states that in order for students to participate in extracurricular activities, they must maintain at least a C average in each of the six core courses: English, history, math, science, foreign language, and physical education. Your school currently has a policy that states students may participate in extracurricular activities as long as they have passing grades in five of the six core courses. But now your board of education is considering adopting the C Rule. The board members believe this policy will raise the educational standards of the school. However, many people in town believe this will be an unfair policy since only students who participate in extracurricular activities would be punished for having poor grades.

The school board members have asked students to write to them to explain their views on this controversial issue. What is your point of view? How would the adoption of the new C Rule policy affect you and other students in your school? Will it raise educational standards or unfairly penalize some students?

Directions for Writing

Write a letter to your school board either supporting or opposing the proposed policy that would require students who participate in extracurricular activities to maintain a C average in all six core courses. Use facts, examples, and other evidence to support your point of view.

Sample Topic: The HSPA Junior Prompt on the C rule

Student Thesis: The C rule would be an effective policy if implemented because it motivates students to work hard for their grades so they can participate in sports/clubs, helps students achieve their goal of going college, and raises educational standards.

Student Body Paragraph #1

I – The C rule would encourage students to earn better grades so they can play sports or take part in clubs.

C – At least 60% of students in Liberty are athletes or are active in clubs. As a member of the basketball team, I know that if I were told that I could not play because I had a D in Math I would definitely try harder in class.

E – Since my sport is important to me, I would do everything within my power to pass. I would ask the teacher for help, make-up any missing assignments and even stay-after if it meant I could have more playing time on the court.

D – Most motivated students would do the same. The C rule would promote students to focus on their grades so they could participate in what they love.

Student Literary Model of Effective ICED Paragraph

Sample Topic: After reading Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* as well as his article on "Tragedy and the Common Man", consider the following prompt. While many critics maintain that a true tragic hero cannot exist in modern plays, Miller believes that, despite the fact Proctor is a common man, he is a tragic hero and the play is a tragedy. Examine the qualifications of a classic tragedy and justify Proctor as a tragic hero.

Student Thesis: John Proctor's stubborn nature causes his downfall which allows him to fight for his dignity, making him a true tragic hero.

Student Body Paragraph #1

I – As a criteria for a classical tragic hero, Proctor’s inflexible disposition is the tragic flaw that contributes to his downfall.

C – “If the girl is a saint now, I think it is not easy to prove she’s a fraud...I will think on it (Miller 1237).

E – Here Proctor first illustrates his stubbornness in refusing to go to Abigail as Elizabeth has asked. Her request is simple and straightforward but Proctor’s pride and inflexibility leads him to do nothing. This is the cause of most of the conflict in the rest of the play.

D – Because of Proctor’s flaw of obstinacy, Abigail calls Elizabeth out for a witch, which in turn, brings about Proctor’s arrest and subsequent death.

College Sample of ICED

Sample Topic: American education is unique as it provides free education for twelve years for all citizens regardless of race, class or religion yet, it is always being reformed with such new ideas as merit pay, No Child Left Behind, and high stakes testing (HSPA, SAT, GRE, LSAT, MCAT, etc.). With all this attention paid to education – what does it mean to be “educated” in America today? What is the purpose of education as a whole? Is American education accomplishing this purpose? Why or why not? The content of the essay should reflect *inquiry* – that is you are exploring questions of intellectual interest based on the preceding prompts. Drawing from the readings in *Rereading America*, your personal educational history and class discussion, explore the role education plays in American society. The essay should be an attempt to make sense of the information and opinions that are available on the topic in order to give the reader a framework for thinking more carefully about the issue you are illuminating.

Student Thesis: By removing the idea of meritocracy, we are destroying the American Dream, both past and present; as a result, we are also destroying the work ethic and desire to succeed, which are the backbones of American Dream.

Student Body Paragraph #1

I - Throughout history, Americans have known successful leaders who rose from nothing, the iconic "rags to riches" story.

C - One perfect example of this is General Colin Powell. General Powell grew up in poverty in New York City but applied himself with hard work and determination. He took advantage of every opportunity that crossed his path and made his "American Dream" a reality.

E - There will always be people of privilege who may attain greater opportunity, success or fame based upon their class status. While this is inevitably true, it should not deter people from working hard to elevate themselves and attain their own version of the American Dream. If General Colin Powell did not work as arduously to achieve what he wanted, as suggested by the idea of meritocracy, he would never have become the successful leader he is today.

D - That is why these values and the American Dream are so essential and necessary for our current and future society.