



Developing | Exemplar Essay

Young People As Activists

Social Media is Better



Claim and Focus

A claim is presented in the introduction, but supporting ideas are minimal (“Social media is the most convenient way for us to communicate and share information”), neglecting to adequately defend the position and fulfill the demands of the task.



Support and Evidence

Some reasoning is presented (“One image or article can go viral in a few hours.”), but it does not precisely explain how it supports the claim (the majority of the writing is quoted evidence from one source). The essay attempts to acknowledge the counterposition (“Protests are good to do”), but counterclaims are not properly addressed.



Organization

A basic organizational structure is evident but a proper conclusion is missing (the final sentence does not adequately relate to the ideas presented). Some transitions serve to connect ideas (“According to...”), but relationships between ideas are somewhat unclear.



Language

Some strong word choices are made (“activism,” “equality,” “convenient”), but a lack of original ideas fails to establish a consistent voice. Sentences are of similar lengths, structure is often unvaried (“While protests...”), and language is informal (“us,” “we”) and repetitive (“important”) at times.



Using Exemplars in Your Lessons

Exemplar essays are tools to take abstract descriptions and make them more concrete for students. One way to use them is to print the clean copies of the essays and allow students to use the rubric to make notes or even find examples of important elements of an essay - thesis statements, introductions, evidence, conclusions, transitions, etc. Teachers can also use exemplars to illustrate what each score point within a trait 'looks like' in an authentic student essay. For additional ideas, please see “25 Ways to Use Exemplar Essays” by visiting the Curriculum Resources page in Help.

Young People As Activists



Social Media is Better

The best activism method young people should use for change is using social media to fight for justice and equality. Social media is the most convenient way for us to communicate and share information and can reach more people across the globe.

While protests are good to do, the impact of a social media campaign is much more powerful. We can reach more people so much faster than a protest can. "Rainesford Stauffer wrote a piece for Teen Vogue on the use of social media. It showed that social media has given young people a new space to share information and raise money. The effect is that young people are organizing and mobilizing like never before. Student protests in September 2018 were largely organized through social media. The protest followed a school shooting in Parkland, Florida." According to Teen Vogue, Ryan Pascal "organized an entire protest over Instagram and Snapchat" (Source 3). While protests are important, they can't match the reach of a social media campaign. One image or article can go viral in a few hours. One protest is a good start but it won't reach as many people as social media can. Also people can share things just to make each other feel better like the girl who does the makeup videos.

There are many actions we must follow through with, but fighting for equality and social justice is important.