

Evaluating Essays

Read the following essay written by Natalia. Complete the following activities.

Identify: Expository or Persuasive

Highlight: Thesis, transitions, justifiers, a quote, an example, a statistic.

Circle: Ten words to demonstrate strong vocabulary choices.

Underline: Sentences which begin in a different way (gerund, adverb, preposition)

Compound sentences (S, conj S or S;S or S; SC, S)

Complex sentence (LB, S)

Sentence with Commas in a Series (A, B, conj C or A, B, C noun)

Examples of figurative language (simile, metaphor, personification, idiom)

Check: Punctuation (end marks at the end of each sentence), Spelling and Capitalization

William James once said, “Act as though what you do makes a difference. It does.” Unfortunately, many people haven’t realized that the choices you make can have many different effects on people. This is especially true about school decisions. The debate about whether or not schools should offer classes in both English and Spanish for Spanish speaking students has continued raging on. My school should not offer classes in both English and Spanish because Spanish speaking students need to be bi-lingual to live in America, students will be segregated from students of other cultural backgrounds, and it is cost prohibitive.

To begin with, classes should not be offered in English and Spanish because students need to be bi-lingual to live in America. In America, most people learn to speak English. For example, I once had a student in my class who had recently move to America from Guatemala. Unfortunately, she had a difficult time when she went out because she was unable to communicate. Many people may not be able to live normal lives for the simple reason of their not being bi-lingual. Students going to school should speak English so it can become their second language. Clearly, the school should not offer classes in both English and Spanish because students need to be bi-lingual to adjust to life in America.

Additionally, my school definitely shouldn’t have classes in both English and Spanish because students will be segregated from students from different countries around the world. In the novel The Watsons go to Birmingham, because African-

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Americans and Caucasians were segregated, some men bombed an African-American church killing some innocent young girls. This is an example of why people, including students, should not be segregated from each other because of race. My grandmother once said, "People will never learn to live in peace if we are separated." Obviously, schools should not allow classes to be held in both English and Spanish because students will be segregated.

Furthermore, the school shouldn't allow classes to be held in both English and Spanish because it is cost prohibitive. Four out of five teachers agree that a school just doesn't have the funding available to have separate classes for students who speak different languages. Also, if a class is being held for Spanish speakers, then everyone will want a class held for their language. That would be incredibly expensive hiring all of these language teachers. Certainly, the school shouldn't offer classes in both Spanish and English because it is very cost prohibitive.

In summation, classes should not be offered in both Spanish and English because students need to be bi-lingual to live in America and it will segregate students. Also, it is extremely cost prohibitive. These decisions can have many effects on us. William James was certainly right. What we do does make a difference and we need to think seriously about the ramifications of offering classes in both English and Spanish.

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