

## Evaluating Essays

**Read the following essay written by Danny. 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

Racing furiously toward my class as the school bell rang, I notice suspicious activity occurring near the mysterious back section of the school. I quietly head toward the scene and quickly glance at the situation that is happening. I notice two kids about my age smoking to try to look cool, which is sickening to watch. Just as I am about to notify an adult in my school, I think about what our principal had announced the other day about possible random backpack and purse searches. Random backpack and purse searches should be instituted at my school because it can help prevent accidents, it can create a safer learning environment, and it can detect illegal substances being brought to school.

Initially, random backpack and purse searches should be continued at my school because it can help prevent accidents from occurring. For instance, if a student brought a gun to school and was concealing it in their backpack or purse, they would be stopped from bringing it into the building by the helpful backpack and purse searches. Although this would cause the student to face punishment, the lives of many students could be saved due to these searches. No innocent student would lose their valuable life because of some crazed maniac who decided to bring a weapon to school. Obviously, random backpack and purse searches should be continued at my school because it just may prevent a tragic accident from occurring.

In addition, random backpack and purse inspections should be continued because it can create a safer learning environment in the school. As Margaret Mead

**Write On!**



once said, “Never doubt that a small group of concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” Basically, this means that if a small group of people who are trying to improve things work together, they will be able to improve the world. This is very true in school, because due to the administrators, the random backpack and purse searches will be able to detect illegal items in school and eliminate them. Clearly, random backpack and purse searches should be continued if we want our school to be a safe learning environment.

Equally important, random backpack and purse searches should be continued because it can detect illegal substances being brought to school. In a recent article in U.S. News & World Report, 85% of students surveyed know someone who has brought illegal substances to school. Fortunately, these random backpack searches will be able to detect drugs being brought to the school environment. Once the students are caught, then they will be punished. Students must remember that these inspections are for the good sake of the kids in the school. Thus, random backpack and purse searches should be continued because it can detect illegal substances being brought into the school.

In summation, random backpack and purse searches should be continued because they can help prevent accidents. Also, these searches create a safer learning environment and can detect illegal substances being brought into the school. As I headed toward the office, I quickly notified an adult. I was pleased to hear that because of the inspection that day, the two kids had been caught. One was also carrying a weapon. Who knows what might have happened if we hadn't had the search!??!