

Evaluating Essays

Read the following essay written by Adam. 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

It was the last day of school and I was sitting in my last period of the day. I was dying for the clock to move so I could trot my way out of the classroom and say “good-bye” to middle school and “hello” to high school. As we were sitting there, desperately watching the clock, our teacher starts reminiscing about some of her favorite memories of our class. She pulled out a couple of essays and said she was going to share the best from the year with us. Surprisingly, the first one she read was mine. It was the one that I wrote about detention. It began with an absolutely incredible thesis statement and just got better from there. Like this – Teachers should keep detentions as a method of discipline because it is a good way to enforce discipline, it teaches kids to be respectful to their teachers and it also teaches kids not to do whatever it was they did again.

First of all, detentions should be kept and utilized by teachers because they are a fantastic way to teach discipline. In a recent study conducted about teaching and discipline, 90% of all teachers surveyed would keep detentions in order to teach their students. Discipline is one thing that should be an integral part of every school because without it, students would just be a rowdy mess. By having detentions, that rowdy mess would be contained to just a simple mess. Therefore, detentions should be acquired by all teachers because it teaches students discipline.

Moreover, teachers should have detentions because it teaches the students to be more respectful to their teachers. My dad once stated, “Respect starts when you practice it, not when you ask for it.” In other words, you should be respectful to other people if

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you want them to be respectful to you. Respect is something everyone should have, and by having detentions students will gain respect because they teach respect in a very disciplined way.

Furthermore, teachers should keep detentions because it teaches students never to do whatever it was that got them in trouble again. For example, my friend got one detention for continually being out of his seat without permission. That one time was all he needed to convince him not to do that again. He said it was incredibly boring and that he had to do a lot of work in the teacher's room. By having detentions more go in, but less come back. Thus, teachers should keep detentions because they teach kids not to do it again.

To summarize the aforementioned points, teachers should not get rid of detentions because it is a wonderful way to teach respect and an even better way to learn it. Also, it shows kids that they should not do the bad behavior again so they can avoid the boredom that comes with detention. After my teacher finished my essay, there was tremendous applause from my classmates and the final bell rang. I trotted out the door and said, "Hello high school!!"