The repetition of the word *mean* reflects the language and argument of the passage: *"San Francisco is ranked the 11ᵗʰ meanest city for the homeless in the country"*

"Officially, ten percent of San Franciscans live in pverty, and homelessness is a massive problem in the city with the third highest median income in the country. At any given moment, there are more than 6,000 homeless individuals in San Francisco—and probably more than 8,000. This fact is all the more disturbing considering that San Francisco is ranked the 11ᵗʰ meanest city for the homeless in the country by the National Coalition for the Homeless." (David Schalliol, San Francisco Street Poverty Photo Exhibition)

San Francisco: an Imperfect--yet Wonderful—City

My hometown, San Francisco, happens to be one of the most famous cities in the world. Just as celebrities have their problems discussed and displayed nonstop, the more famous a city is, the more people love to share all the problems they might find. In his description of the San Francisco Street Poverty Photo Exhibition, photographer David Schalliol argues that San Francisco is an unfair city. He points out that "homelessness is a massive problem" in San Francisco, even though the city has "the third highest median income in the country." He also notes that ten percent of the city's people live in poverty, and that the city is considered one of the meanest places for homeless people. Davia Schalliol is doing what many people do when they talk about San Francisco; he is pointing out the obvious problems, but not showing the other side of the story. I agree that San Francisco is not fair to all its people, but I do not think the city should be judged by its treatment of the homeless; the city may be divided by wealth, but it is not a city meant only for the wealthy.

Introduction engages and orients the reader.

Writer summarizes Schalliol's main points. Language is rich and precise and transitions are used to integrate ideas.

The writer's argument about the passage is the writer's compelling thesis.

1

If all cities were judged by the way homeless people are treated, every big city would be considered mean, and smaller towns (with few or no homeless people) would be considered friendly. I have never seen a big city without homeless people, nor seen a city where the homeless appear to be comfortable. I have also never seen a big city, including San Franciso, that didn't have expensive restaurants and stores, with rich people spending thousands of dollars inside and giving nothing but dirty looks to the people shivering and starving on the sidewalk insided. All those cities are mean; it is the definition of unfair for the rich to ignore the needs of the poor. San Francisco is no better and no worse than any other American city in this regard.

San Francisco may be unfair to its poorest citizens, but this is also a city in which many of the best things are completely free. You don't need any money to walk through Golden Gate Park, one of the largest and most beautiful city parks in the world. Without a dime in your pocket, you can play just about any sport, take a nap on the lawns, feed the ducks, meditate in the Japanese Tea Garden or wander though the huge Arboretum. Not far from the east end of the park, you can visit the spacious Main Library, which anyone can enter to read books, magazines, or newspaper in comfortable furniture with good lighting. It costs nothing to borrow books, as long as you return them on time. There are no late fees involved in the view from Land's End, where you can stand and look out over the Pacific Ocean, the Golden Gate Bridge, and the Bay. People come from all over the world to see that view for themselves; San

Francisco residents—rich or poor—can do the same any day of the week. A city that offers so many pleasures to its residents can't be completely mean.

Clearly, San Francisco could offer more to support the poorest residents, as Schalliol suggests. It is not a city where all people are treated equally. On the other hand, it is a city where everyone can enjoy world-famous beauty, and in which nobody has to pay a fee to enter well-designed public spaces. It's my hometown, and I've never been ashamed to say that.

Commentary

This essay provides an example of a 9th grade expository position paper; **as mentioned in the disclaimer section, this is a teacher-generated example** *(not a sample of authentic student writing).*

The writer addresses all parts of the prompt and responds effectively to all aspects of the writing task. The issues raised by the passage author are explored thoughtfully and in depth. The writer has chosen to refer to his own experiences as a way to respond to the central argument of the passage, and develops his thesis through well-chosen, detailed examples. His language is rich but not overly formal throughout; sentences are sophisticated and varied, and vocabulary choices add to the effectiveness of the writing (evident especially in the repeated use of repeated language from the prompt passage). References to the prompt passage are accurately and coherently quoted or paraphrased (with correct use of standard English conventions and punctuations evident). Finally, both the prompt passage author's and the reader's potential misunderstandings, biases and expectations are directly addressed by the writer.