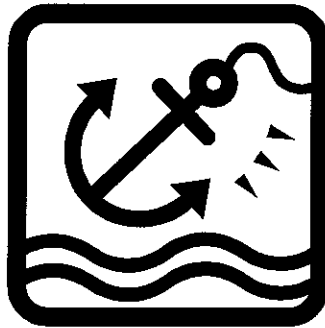


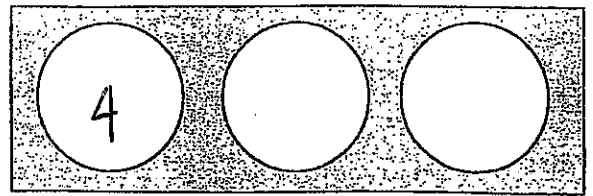
# Oakland Unified School District Writing Proficiency Project



## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Response to Expository Text Anchor Papers Money for Grades Prompt

Note: Please do not use the anchor papers with students prior to the administration of the Process Writing Assessment

# Writing Sample



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START ESSAY HERE

## The Joy of Learning!

Imagine a world where kids get paid to go to school. Students would become dependent on money. There would be major consequences if this dream became a reality. In "Come to School Collect \$100," Amy Benfer argues that while rewarding students for good ideas, it is also a paltry approach to the issue. My position is similar to Benfer's because I believe paying students for academic achievement devalues education, kills intrinsic motivation and results in negative consequences.

Getting good grades, not money at the end of a marking period should be looked forward to. If students were to start thinking about dollar signs rather than actually learning, the value of education would decrease. Education is a priceless gift in America and that alone should be a good enough reward. Some people argue that the money can be saved and used to cover college expenses. However, there is financial aid and the students can be eli-

gible for many scholarships." "...the biggest gap between students at high-performing schools and under-performing schools is much larger than \$100, \$500, or a big-screen TV." Amy Benfer is saying that money isn't the answer. Giving money to students would not be the key to success because they would value the money more. This in turn lessens the importance of education. Paying students devalues a priceless gift.

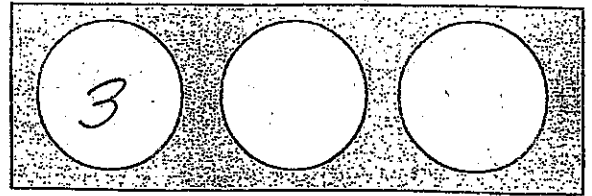
Secondly, when a student just thinks about cashing report cards, there is no intrinsic motivation. The person has no inner voice screaming for success. Money is just paper that can come and go away. However, having the willpower to go the extra mile will stay with you. "In affluent school districts academic performance is the competitive battlefield" says Benfer in her article. The students in those districts have intrinsic motivation. They don't need to be lured into going to school by money. This just shows that all a kid needs to succeed is to want it, and ~~conced~~ prepared for it.

Rewarding students can lead to consequences. Students could use the money for illegal purposes. For example, they could buy drugs or guns. This would make the world a worse place to be. Also, jealousy might

arise between peers. Rose Marie Mills said that there's a competitiveness that excites them. I disagree because the competitiveness turns sour. This can lead to fights, which makes things violent. Money would make the educational system materialistic, and the student body violent.

Paying students for academic achievement is not the best idea to keep students interested in school. It would change students' focus to money instead of an education. They would also lose the inner voice willing to succeed and it would devalue education. There are better ways to get students to enjoy learning by having better programs and new, more involving lesson plans.

# Writing Sample



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Money, Education or Both?

There's many schools all over the world and students either take the opportunity to be successful or slack off. So how do some administrators change the slacker's perspective? Reward them. In the online article "Come To School, Collect \$100" by Amy Benfer (2009), Benfer believes that students should not be paid for good grades. She uses a sarcastic and condescending tone and calls the rewards compared to academics paltry. Unlike Amy Benfer demonstrates, paying students for academic achievement can help them succeed by giving more opportunities.

In France, they give underachieving students up to

\$15,000 per year for their attendance and performance. Although students can only use it for school-related projects, \$15,000 is still a staggering amount. Benfer believes the school should already provide the school-related projects for everyone. But why should students that don't deserve the projects get them? It's a privilege to study abroad or use advanced technology. It shouldn't be given to just any one. The striving kids work hard to be on the level they're on and I think it's unfair to them.

Other schools, like some in Georgia, use other rewards. Instead of money they use TVs or iPods. Now these aren't made for school-related projects, but it still motivates students to do better.

Benfer says students should already be doing well without the motivation of electronics. Being a high school student myself, I know Benfer is

wrong. There are many more students that choose to not learn. Popular items for rewards can be that push to higher education that kids need.

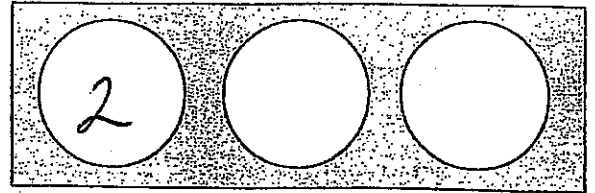
Personally, being a successful student myself, I believe kids would do better if they had rewards for academic performance. I'm not speaking only of myself, I go to a public high school and see students not trying at all in school. With their lack of motivation and high level of competitiveness, I think they need rewards. I know that if my school paid students for their good grades, a lot will use it. It's a great opportunity.

I am completely against Amy Benfer's position. Giving achieving students money for an advanced education can get them farther in life, rewards that <sup>unachieving</sup> students want like TVs and iPods will motivate them,

and also their competitive hormones will help them strive. I understand Benfer thinks money compared to education is paltry, but I think students can have both.



# Writing Sample



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START ESSAY HERE

Wouldn't you like to get paid to go to school, of course right? I read Amy Benfers opinion on an article called Come to School, Collect \$100 from Salon Magazine and I strongly disagree with her. Amy Benfer wrote about how she thinks its a bad idea to get money to go to school. Now im going to write about how its a fabulous idea to get paid to go to school. First, of all, kids would try their best in school. Secondly, if they got paid it could be used for good causes. Finally, more students would succeed and there would be barley any dropouts. This is why unlike Amy Benfer I do care about kids and their futures so I disagree with her and I say that paying students for Academic achievement is a great idea.

If this were to happen mostly everyone would try their best in school. Most kids wish they could have money so now they have the chance to earn their money by going to school. They would want to get alot of money so they would try hard to do good, get good grades, and actually put an

effort into learning. Also for example I already know that if I get a good education I know that I would get paid more in the future, but that doesn't make me motivated in my classes right now. If I knew I was going to get paid at the end of this year I would try much harder.

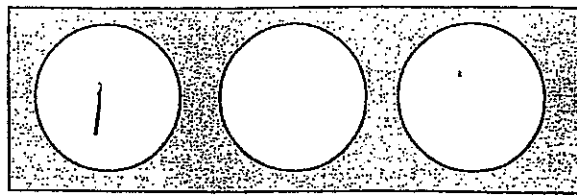
Secondly, if students got paid to go to school they could use that money they earned for good causes. Maybe sometimes kids would buy useless stuff but at least parents/guardians don't have to pay for it anymore. What I mean by good causes though, is that they could save it for bills or to go to college or just anything people usually need a lot of money for. There is many families that don't have enough money to buy their kids everything they need, for example clothes or school supplies, well now they can pay it themselves. As a kid I know that earning money for myself would be such a good idea, no more asking my parents for money.

Finally, if this plan does happen one day its most likely that a much larger amount of kids would succeed in the future and there would be a way smaller percentage of dropouts. Most dropouts are happening because they feel school is a waste of time and also they already want to start working

to make money. They think school is a waste in time because they don't get a motivation. If they started paying them that would motivate them to go to school and learn. Even probably change their mind and want to go to college and try to have a better future since they got the education. People would keep wanting to get money so by going to college they would want to study about something and get paid fairly in the future.

Those are my reasons why I think getting paid to go to school is a great idea. Kids will get encouraged and motivated to go and do good in school. I care about kids and their futures so I think Amy Benfer was definitely wrong for saying we shouldn't pay kids for academic achievement. Because although maybe some kids will still dropout and not do good, there is going to be a higher percentage of kids going and learning in school and also achieving in the future.

# Writing Sample



Win a Prize if you come to school

START ESSAY HERE

Do not write in this box.

Bribing Students will keep them in school, but it is worthless without help and encouragement from their parents and teachers. Like Amy Benfer portrays, paying students to get good grades is a good idea because in that case students would attend school more and be more successful in school.

Paying students would be great because they would already have some money saved up for college, and there's kids that do need the money to use it for college. Also if teachers payed the students parents won't be wasting alot of money buying their children iPads or stuff like that.

Even though paying them won't be so great because then maybe some students would just go for the money and maybe not be so successful in life because nobody encouraged them to do well. If teachers motivate their students it would be a little

better because it won't make them broke and they probably need the money for their bills or some.

Education is a good value that certain students should get paid for but ones their done with high school. If you just pay students everyday for attending school and getting good grades they gone come to a point when maybe they think they made a lot of money and may drop out of school. That's why it would be better for students to get all of the money they earned at the end of senior year. If you pay them till then they gone know that they gone win a prize at the end of high school and pay more attention and stuff, and that would be a good award.

## **9<sup>th</sup> Grade Expository Essay Anchor Papers: Money for Grades**

Title	Score	Notes
The Joy of Learning!	4	<p><i>Engaging and perceptive writing that corresponds to a 4 Advanced in these ways:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writer effectively responds to all parts of the writing task.</li> <li>• Insightful and convincing analysis of text that offers a compelling thesis (<i>Paying students for grades devalues education, kills intrinsic motivation and results in negative consequence.</i>) The writer distinguishes between ideas of the text and her own and uses specific references to the text to support position.</li> <li>• Organization of essay develops the argument and effectively guides the reader though the conclusion is somewhat weak.</li> <li>• Language is precise and lively and vocabulary is sophisticated and rich.</li> <li>• Combination of sentence types and use of punctuation create a nice rhythm and flow in the writing.</li> </ul>
Money, Education or Both	3	<p><i>Focused, organized writing that corresponds to a 3 Proficient in these ways:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writer addresses all part of the prompt.</li> <li>• Offers some insight into the implications of the text, but doesn't adequately distinguish between own ideas, position of the author, and ideas presented in the text. (Ideas not always attributed to the article with appropriate citation i.e. "In France, they give....")</li> <li>• Focused thesis, but language lacks some clarity and, as a result, causes thesis to be somewhat muddled</li> <li>• Language is lively and precise and uses an informal tone.</li> <li>• Adequately refers to text to provide evidence for argument</li> <li>• Connects own experience and knowledge as evidence for argument, but not so compelling or relevant.</li> <li>• Errors in convention are first-draft in nature and do not interfere with meaning.</li> </ul>

<p>“Wouldn’t you like to get paid to go to school, of course right?”</p>	<p>2</p>	<p><i>Organized ideas that correspond to a 2 Developing in these ways:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Somewhat literal interpretation of text. Thesis is limited. Writing makes some generalizations.</li> <li>• Organized by topics; inadequately refers to text, evidence is weak and not completely relevant.</li> <li>• Language has some awkward structures.</li> <li>• Writer does not always show awareness of audience and refers to self frequently, “If I knew I was....</li> <li>• Many spelling errors, but they do not interfere with meaning.</li> </ul>
<p>Win a Prize if You Come to School</p>	<p>1</p>	<p><i>A “1” that is <b>Emerging</b> because the writer misinterprets the text and the essay reads like a “think-aloud”:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writer has a poor understanding of text and summarizes the position of the author incorrectly</li> <li>• Essay makes a clear assertion on the topic, but position shifts as essay develops.</li> <li>• Reads like a “think-aloud” or a list of ideas, related, but not sequenced or organized.</li> <li>• Some word confusions, awkward sentences, and spelling issues.</li> </ul>