



**PAWS
Writing
Grade 7**

**Released Items
With Data**

2010

Copyright © **2011** by the Wyoming Department of Education.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the Wyoming Department of Education.

Pearson and the *Pearson* logo are trademarks, in the U.S. and/or other countries, of Pearson Education, Inc. or its affiliate(s).

Portions of this work were previously published.

Printed in the United States of America.



Grade 7

Expository



Problem Solution

Annotated Anchor Set

“School Rules”



Grade 7

Released Writing Prompt

School Rules

In order for groups of people to work together effectively, rules must be in place. Think about the rules that exist in your school. Write an essay identifying school rules that need to be improved and provide suggestions for improvements to these school rules.

Each paper you will score today was written to the prompt above.

Idea Development

Expository
Problem Solution

I think rules are good to not do what ever they want and they have to Follow, I think every body have to respect the rules to be better person, every body have to Follow the rules If you not Follow you can have Problems I think improved that's better because we can know what was our mistakes.

Idea Development score point 0

The student paraphrases the prompt rather than identifying a problem. (*I think rules are good to not do what ever they want and they have to Follow. . . . If you not follow you can have Problems*) and does not provide a solution.

This is some school rules I think need to be improved. The first one is the school dress code, I think this should be improved, because one time my friend got a detention for wearing baggy pants and I think that is really stupid. The second rule is the winter rule. The winter rule is we can't throw snow balls and I think as long as we are not hurting any one we can. The last rule I think needs to be improved is the detention rule. The detention rule is don't talk and do your work. I think we should be able to talk as long as we do are work.

Idea Development score point 1

The student attempts to present several problems (*dress code, winter rule, detention rule*). A few solutions are presented with limited relevant details (*. . . I think as long as we are not hurting any one we can. . . . I think we should be able to talk as long as we do are work*).

There are many rules at my school that I don't like and I am going to tell you these and how I would improve them. First, one rule that I don't like and that I would like to improve is the number of bathroom trips. In my classes you can only go to the bathroom three times in a semester and I don't think this rule is reasonable. To improve this rule they should let you have more bathroom trips but not an extreme amount. Second, I would like to improve our schools reading rules. We read ten minutes before every class and nobody even reads so to improve this rule they should move the time down to five minutes so that kids would read for a shorter time. Third, is the rule our office has that says you can't walk through the main doors and through the building to get to the locker room for sport practices. We get out of school at two fifty five and practice doesn't start until four so we go to the front of the building to talk until practice. When it is time

we have to walk all the way around the school
to get to the locker room. To improve this rule they
should let us go through the main doors and through
the building so that it is a much closer walk. To sum it
up, these are the rules that I think should be
improved and how to improve them at my school.

Idea Development score point 2

The writer provides clear problems (*number of bathroom trips, reading rules, can't walk through main doors*) and logical solutions in response to the prompt. The writer uses relevant details (*We read ten minutes before every class and nobody even reads so to improve this rule the should move the time down to five minutes*), but the details do not consistently enrich idea development.

In our school we have many rules such as no pop machines, our dress code, no food in some classes, and so on. All of those rules are great, but some need to be improved. I will now provide suggestions for improvements to some of our school rules.

The first and most important rule that needs improvement is the dress code. The rule is that you cannot wear belly-shirts, flip-flops, or any kind of tight shirt/cutoffs. We need some improvement on this rule because kids don't follow it. Some suggestions I have for improving this rule is that if the kids listen to the rules and don't wear any of that type of clothing, than maybe we as a school could let them wear cutoffs as long as they are to the shoulder. Another suggestion is that

I

Some kids get away with wearing belly-shirts and tight shirts/cutoffs. I think the teachers should pay more attention about what kids are wearing. A second rule that needs improvement on is the no food in class. Some suggestions I have on improving this rule is that that rule should be in every class. I don't think that students should be allowed to bring food or pop into the classroom because it would distract not only them from learning but also their classmates. Also if a kid were to bring food into their class without permission the teacher, first should get it taken away from them and second they should get some kind of punishment if they were to constantly bring food.

Those were the two main rules that I

think need to be improved, and me providing suggestions for improvements to these school rules.

Idea Development score point 3

The writer presents and explains clear problems (*dress code, no food in class*) and provides logical solutions. The student uses descriptive details to enrich idea development (*. . . you cannot wear belly-shirts, flip-flops, or any kind of tight shirt/cutoffs. . . . I don't think that students should be allowed to bring food or pop into the classroom because it would distract not only them from learning but also their classmates*).

Organization

Expository
Problem Solution

I think rules are good to not do what
ever they want and they have to
follow, I think every body have to respect!
the rules to be better person, every
body have to follow the rules
if you not follow you can have
problems I think improved that's
better because we can know what
was our mistakes.

Organization score point 0

The student attempts an introduction (*I think rules are good to not do whatever*) but provides no conclusion. Furthermore, similar ideas are not grouped together, and there is no evidence of indentation or spacing. Transitions and topic sentences are unidentifiable. Many sentences are not correctly constructed (*I think rules are good to not do what ever they want and they have to follow*).

School rules to follow. First rule would be behavior. It is important for you to behave by keeping your hands & feet to your self, because se some one could get hurt. Behaving also means to be polite to others around around you. Another rule is the dress code. The 5 B's are important And no hats in the Building. Lastly not following directions. Just do what your told & there won't be a problem. school rules are very important to everyone.

Organization score point 1

The student presents a weak introduction (*School rules to follow*) and conclusion (*Lastly, not following directions*). Although transitions occur within the writing, appropriate spacing and indentations are lacking. Sentences are simple (*Another rule is the dress code. The 5 Bs are important*). The student inconsistently uses correct sentences (*School rules to follow. . . . Lastly not following directions*).

There are many rules in my school, and many of them need to be improved.

First the CD players. CD players are all around the school. This rule needs to be improved because people listen to them in class. They distract other people from their work. This I would improve by saying No CD players allowed in the school at all. If teachers saw them they would take them away. The kids would NEVER get them back, along with their discs, head phones, and batteries.

Another rule that should be improved are the cell phones. Sometimes they ring in the middle of class, kids answer them, miss class, hang up, and are "What?" "What was the assignment?" These kind of people are so annoying to me. I would improve this rule again by having the teachers taking them away. With all

The minutes on them and every thing.

Finally, are the fights I get so sick and tired of kids bragging on when, where, why, who, and what the fight is going to be.

I would like to see people get expelled if the principals got hold of this. I don't think cubes (ISD) is enough for their punishment.

In conclusion these are the school rules I would improve in my school.

Organization score point 2

The writer presents an introduction, body, and conclusion. Similar ideas are grouped by paragraphs, and paragraphs are indented appropriately. The student uses topic sentences and transitions between paragraphs (*First, Another, Finally*).

In our society rules are set up to help everyone in as many aspects as possible. If you look around you, you may find that rules inhabit any community. Some places in the community where rules are found are: the government, businesses, families' homes, and schools.

My school, for instance, has many rules. The main ones are no rude behavior, follow teachers/adults directions, no fighting, no disrespect and no bullying. Although rules are set up in schools for safety as well as to help us learn, many schools are finding that troubles occur with certain rules. That is why we are trying to find solutions to these problems. My school is included in this numerous amount of schools.

Middle School (my school) needs to make improvements on these three rules: respecting others, following instructions and bullying. Kids nowadays have their own ideas considering the respect issue. They

talk back, don't pay attention to teachers, and tease others. Along with disrespect comes bullying. Bullying in my school can sometimes be overlooked. Kids push each other in the halls, laugh at others' mistakes and again tease. Though bullying can be disregarded by teachers, they do make an effort to try and stop it. But, the kids don't listen. They tend to be lazy with their homework, don't pay attention in class, and they don't understand teachers' directions because they've been ignoring them. As you can see, my school isn't perfect but these obstacles can be fixed.

A way to adjust disrespect would be to tell the kids why it's wrong. Explain to them the consequences but do it gently without exploding in anger. Maybe if kids understand why respecting others is important they'll stop. In addition to disrespect there's the

bullying problem. To show kids that bullying is NOT acceptable we could higher the consequences for bullying. This will help kids understand that it will not be tolerated in schools. As for appreciating teachers, we could have a program that shows kids why its important to follow along in class. Hopefully this program would help kids comprehend the significance of learning.

I hope those changes can be made in my school as well as other schools so we'll be able to understand all rules. As I said earlier, rules are important not only because they protect us, but because they ensure us a better tomorrow, a better future. For rules will always be there to help us through the rest of our lives.

Organization score point 3

The writer develops an effective introduction (*In our society rules are set to help everyone in as many aspects as possible. If you look around you, you may find that rules inhabit any community*), body and conclusion. The student effectively organizes similar ideas by providing multiple indented paragraphs and uses topic sentences. There are varied transitions between paragraphs. Additionally, the student uses varied and correct sentences (*But, the kids don't listen. They tend to be lazy with their homework, don't pay attention in class, and they don't understand teacher's directions because they've been ignoring them*).

Voice

Expository
Problem Solution

I think that the no
hat rule should be taken
out. Because some people
don't wear hats
and there should
be a holiday at
school to wear any
hat you feel like. like
wearing like funny hats big hats
little hats and inappropriate hats.
Because it is cool
to ~~see~~ show off your
hat. THE END

Voice score point 0

The response lacks voice appropriate to the purpose (*Because it is cool to show of your hat*).
Additionally, the response contains an extremely limited range of words and phrases that are repeated
throughout the writing (*Some people don't were hats Waring like funny hats big hats little hats*).

Our Schools' rules are, no talking during a test while others are testing because it's disrespectful. You may not talk back to the teacher or else you will go to the office. If you bully someone or call them bad names and get caught you go to the office. If you get caught smoking at school you go to the office. The reason we have these rules is so we have a drug free and safe school to learn in.

Voice score point 1

This response reveals limited voice appropriate to the purpose (*Our School' rules are, no talking during a test while others are testing because it's disrespectful*). The writer demonstrates little variation in word choice (*... get caught you go to the office get caught smoking at school*).

Have you EVER wanted a group of people or a community to get along? I know I have! I will be giving some rules that I don't like that I would change & improve. First I will tell you what I think of the rule no hats in school. Not to offend the school or anything but I think it is a stupid rule, my reasoning is because I think a hat is a way of expressing the way you are feeling. I also think a hat is a way of showing favorite things, brands & a way of showing school spirit. To improve this rule you could let kids wear hats on every other odd or even day of the week. Next I will argue the rule of not being able to have food in class. I think we should get food in class because it is a proven fact that kids that eat during class perform better. One way to improve this rule is to make a mess with food you have to clean it up. Last I think the rule of no skate boarding & biking should be changed. I think this because

some kids live far away from the skate park
I have know where to go to make this rule better
You could get the kid to sign a form saying
if they get hurt it is not the school's fault.
This are all concluding my paragraph on Helping
to make a Better School.

Voice score point 2

The student demonstrates voice appropriate to the purpose (. . . *I think a hat is a way of Expressing the way you are feeling. I also think a hat is a way of showing favinrote team's, Brands & a way of showing school spirit*). Although there is some general word choice (*stupid rule, make a mess with food*), the writer also uses some precise words and phrases (. . . *you could get the kid to sign a form saying if they get hurt it is not the school's fault*).

Do you know of any rules at your school that need to be improved? I do, and I'm going to tell you how I would improve upon them.

Have you ever walked down a hall, or into a room where you need to keep out every other word, or can't look around because of pictures or words on cloths? I have it happen everyday at school because of vulgar words or cloths. The first way I think we could have a solution to this rule is by having a prize or something that would make students want to report seeing or hearing vulgar things. A second way is to have teachers when they see vulgar cloths say, "Go to the office and get a different shirt." instead of just, "You need a different shirt." We need teachers who are firmer about these things, not so shaky. The third way I think would be to have people in groups in the halls to tell other students to stop swearing or they will get written up, instead of just one lone person saying, "Please stop." By reading this I hope you understand the same way I do that we need people, with permission from the teachers, to be patrolling the halls, to be there to see, and hear the vulgar things. Everyday as I walk down the halls I see someone being teased about

looks, or clothes; someone being made fun of, or shoved into a locker, and sometimes someone being sexually harassed, and haven't done anything about it and later wished that I had. This rule is not held up very much, there is probably one case out of fifty that is reported! The first solution I think is for teachers, and students alike to try and get other students involved, and try to stop it, or report it, after all it is up to the students, because teachers don't see these things happening. Also a solution is to have kids report seeing this, having it done to them, as well as if they think it might happen start happening to them because they reported cases before. Another thing is that teachers, and staff need to be more willing to believe students when they share this with them. From reading this you see we need to have students be able to trust their teachers easily, and be trusted in return so they can join together to stop teasing, making fun, bullying, and harassment while they can.

Yes, you've heard of it, everyone knows there is a dress code, but do they follow it? The answer is no. In my opinion it is probably the most broken rule any school has, and most people don't care! The first ~~rule~~ I think

we could solve this is to have teacher actually care, and check to see if our shirts are too short, are see through, or don't have sleeves. Second, students should be encouraged to report, to a teacher, if they see dress code violations, and not just to their friends. Finally, teachers should actually say something when they see it, not just think it in their heads, or be too nice to write the person up! Most of the time people don't know until you tell them. So as you see here we need to this not just for our school, but for the person so they aren't talked about all day because of their clothes.

In summary to this paper, these are the rules that are lacking support and need to be taken seriously at my school, what ones are lacking at your "school"?

Voice score point 3

The response consistently reveals voice appropriate to the purpose (*Have you ever walked down a hall, or into a room where you need to beep out every other word, or can't look around because of pictures or words on cloths?*). A variety of precise and appropriate words and phrases are used to communicate to the audience in a compelling way (*. . . we need to have students be able to trust their teachers easily, and be trusted in return so they can join together to stop teasing, making fun, bullying, and harrasment*).

Conventions

Expository
Problem Solution

This is soom of the rules for the school.
noye home work in the school. No snacks breid for
all the school. Not to talk in the class room.
This was soom of the rules for school.
This is one of the rules. we have to due may
home work. we have to due orr home work in
class. we have to due home work in the house.
This was soom of the rules for home work.
This is now we proteck may school.
No snacks breid for all the class. No snacks
because is dure. No snacks breid all the dure.
This was now we protee may school.
This is now we have to be. we cian't
tack in class. we cian't tack in the affest.
we cian't tack to may friend.
This was now we cian't tack
in class.

Conventions score point 0

29475003570

Page 1 of 1

The student misspells common words (*soom, orr, cian't*), and demonstrates incorrect use of grade-appropriate capitalization, grammar and usage (*We have to due orr home work in Class. . . . This was soom of the rules we cian't tack to my friend*).

I think that we have excellent school rules. There are some things that we could improve. I think that we should be able to chew gum in school. I think that we are old enough to where we are able to chew it and when we're done through it in the garbage. I like summer you know, it gives you time away from all that school work. Did you know that school is 9½ months long and summer is only 2½ months. I think that it should be a little longer, why you ask I will tell you we don't have enough time for sports and other things we want to do when I say sports it's like baseball and that takes 2 months of a summer so I think that it should be longer. There is another problem that I think we have are staff is too old we need new

football stuff like pads and girses and we
should put a mustang on the side of the helmets.
We need wrestling stuff bad are singlets are
as short as a underwax and I am sercus
and are seerit shirts and sweet pants are
like rocky's and we dont want that do
we so please take my ideas into consideret please.

Conventions score point 1

The writer misspells grade-appropriate words (*enof, inprove, garbeg*). Although the student demonstrates mostly correct use of capitalization, there is limited control over grade-appropriate punctuation. For example, apostrophes are used incorrectly (*thing's, sport's*) and some end punctuation is missing. There are some usage errors (*I think that we are old enof to were we are able to chew it and when were done through it in the garbeg*).

Rules are important for people to work together so they are more effective. Some rules that are in place at my school are be responsible and be respectful. These rules keep my school together. Yet there are some rules that need to be enhanced. There are other rules but I am not going to get into that.

Being respectful is an important rule that holds our school together. Yet we could change it in some ways. Such as, we should heighten the respect students show their peers and teachers. You should make students be respectful and do what the teacher says. You should also make students respect their school equipment and privileges such as going to the bathroom is a privilege. These

are some things that need to be changed.

Being responsible is another rule that keeps the school together. Yet there are some details in the rule that need to change. One detail is teachers trusting students enough to let them walk through the school by themselves. Another thing is that the teachers won't let students watch themselves ever. Also, the teachers and principals are overly protective and won't let us do anything by ourselves. Those are some details they should change in the responsibility rule.

I just gave some hints on how to change school rules. There are probably many other ideas out there. So you should listen to other students on this topic because I am not an expert. Yet these are still

some things that I would like to be changed and I bet other students have similar ideas.

Conventions score point 2

Although there are several spelling errors (*highten, privalage*), the student uses grade-appropriate capitalization and punctuation. Grammar and usage are mostly correct (*One detail is teachers trusting students enogh to let them walk through the school by themselves*).

You may know rules are guidelines usually used to keep people out of trouble. Rules may be your worst enemy or your best friend, but usually they enable groups to work together efficiently. There are three specific rules in my school that in my opinion need to be improved in order for this to happen. They are, dressing appropriately, using clean language (no swearing), and disrespecting teachers and staff.

In my opinion dressing appropriately is a rule that should be followed. But still there are students who think it is pointless and bend it just as much as they can without getting in trouble. Who would want to attend a school where students could wear whatever they wanted because there was not a rule prohibiting it? I know I wouldn't want to.

The rule in my opinion that needs to be improved the most is using clean language (not swearing). Some people may think that it is not a big deal but to others it is

a huge deal. I know I am definitely one who does not like it. Sometimes I walk down the hall minding my own business and somebody swears. It makes me want to turn around really hurt somebody, and tell them to clean their act up. They have no right to ruin someones day because they think they've got to swear in order to be cool and sophisticated.

The last rule is disrespecting teachers and staff. Disrespecting teachers and staff should never happen. Kids should realize they are your elders; you need to respect them. One experience I have had concerning this rule is, there were these two buddies in the library doing something they weren't supposed to. The librarian caught them so she went over to one of the kids put her hand on his shoulder and told him he had to leave. The other kid went up to the librarian and started to yell at her, accusing her of

harassing his friend. He did this until she broke into tears. After hearing about that incident it made me think "Have I ever treated a teacher like that?"

In conclusion, within my paper I have listed and told about some rules that in my opinion need to be improved, in order for groups to work together efficiently.

Conventions score point 3

The student uses grade-appropriate capitalization and punctuation consistently (*After hearing about that incident it made me think "Have I ever treated a teacher like that?"*). Correct grammar and usage is evident throughout (*But still there are students who think it is pointless and bend it just as much as they can without getting in trouble*). Most spelling is correct.