

Student Cover Letter

Dear Faculty Senate Subcommittee for Writing and Reading,

The essay I have submitted was part of a series of essay assignments that were designed to build upon each other. This particular essay was the second essay in the series of three, which was to be the argumentative research paper. The civic issue I chose to explore at the beginning of the semester was preschool education in California. As the first step of my writing process, I wrote an extended proposal in which I identified the issue, discussed my current opinions about it, and addressed what I hoped to prove about the issue. This proposal provided the narrow focus of my research paper because it led to the formation of a research question: Is preschool more effective for the development of low-income minority children than for middle class mainstream students? How and why? Will the CA preschool reform bill package, recently signed by Governor Schwarzenegger, lead to closing the achievement gap of these children?

Following the research question, I composed a thesis statement which developed the outline for my research paper. Under the guidance of the thesis statement, I established two separate claims each backed up by three supporting sentences. Each of these supporting sentences eventually became their own paragraphs in the research paper. Prior to the body paragraphs that contained the bulk of my argument, I promoted reader awareness by presenting a summary on the CA preschool reform bill package. Once the first draft of the body was written, I then wrote the introduction and conclusion paragraphs. The first draft of the research paper underwent a peer workshop and received teacher feedback. Finally, I made all final revisions to be submitted in my semester portfolio.

Sincerely,

Melina Plasencia