

STUDENTS SHOULD HAVE TO PAY FEES IN ORDER TO PLAY HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS BECAUSE SCHOOL BUDGETS ARE DECREASING. SCHOOLS ACROSS THE COUNTRY HAVE LOST MONEY IN THEIR BUDGETS AND HAVE ELIMINATED SOME EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES. CRITICS ARGUE THAT STUDENTS WHO COME FROM LOWER-INCOME FAMILIES MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE BECAUSE OF THESE FEES. FEES, THOUGH, WILL ALLOW SCHOOLS TO OFFER STUDENTS THE ACTIVITIES THEY WANT.

1

STATES SHOULD BAN THE SALE OF DISPOSABLE PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES BECAUSE IT IS HARMFUL TO THE ENVIRONMENT. MANY PEOPLE THINK THAT THE SALE OF BOTTLED WATER IN STORES IS BENEFICIAL BECAUSE IT IS A GREAT ALTERNATIVE TO OTHER DRINKS THAT ARE VERY HIGH IN SUGAR CONTENT. 30 BILLION PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES ARE DISPOSED OF EVERY YEAR AND THEY TAKE HUNDREDS OF YEARS TO DECOMPOSE. CREATING AND TRANSPORTING THESE BOTTLES ALSO ADDS GASES TO THE ATMOSPHERE, WHICH CAN BE VERY DAMAGING.

2

FOOTBALL IS A DANGEROUS SPORT BECAUSE IT CAN HARM THE HEALTH OF CHILDREN WHO PLAY IT. THE AVERAGE FOOTBALL PLAYER SUFFERS THROUGH THOUSANDS OF SMALL HITS TO THE HEAD DURING THEIR PLAYING CAREER. MORE CHILDREN HAVE DIED IN CYCLING THAN IN FOOTBALL, THOUGH. DESPITE THIS, THE REPEATED HEAD TRAUMAS CAN LEAD TO DEPRESSION AND MEMORY LOSS.

3

GROCERY STORES SHOULD ELIMINATE DISPOSABLE PLASTIC BAGS BECAUSE THEY ARE HARMFUL TO THE ENVIRONMENT. CRITICS CLAIM THAT PLASTIC BAGS ONLY ACCOUNT FOR A SMALL AMOUNT OF WASTE AND BANNING THEM WOULDN'T MAKE THAT MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE. PLASTIC BAGS, THOUGH, ARE A MAJOR PROBLEM. PLASTIC BAGS NEVER BREAK DOWN OR DISINTEGRATE. THEY BREAK INTO SMALLER PIECES BUT THEY WILL ALWAYS BE IN THE LANDFILL. ALSO, THEY ARE VERY HARD TO RECYCLE SO MANY PEOPLE THROW THEM AWAY.

4

THE SCHOOL DAY SHOULD BE LONGER SINCE THIS WOULD HELP STUDENTS BE MORE SUCCESSFUL. AN EXTENDED SCHOOL DAY WOULD BE EXPENSIVE FOR MANY SCHOOL DISTRICTS. THE BENEFITS, THOUGH, WOULD BE IMMENSE. LONGER SCHOOL DAYS WOULD MEAN STUDENTS WOULD HAVE MORE TIME WITH THEIR TEACHERS WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO BETTER GRADES. THIS ADDITIONAL TIME WOULD ALSO MAKE KIDS MORE PREPARED FOR JOBS OR COLLEGE AFTER GRADUATION.

5

CITIES AND TOWNS SHOULD INSTALL SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS TO KEEP PEOPLE SAFE. SOME PEOPLE CLAIM THAT THE COST OF THE CAMERAS WOULD BE BETTER SPENT ON HIRING MORE POLICE OFFICERS. DESPITE THIS, SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS LOWERED BALTIMORE, MARYLAND'S CRIME RATE BY ALMOST TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT. VIDEO CAMERAS IN LONDON, ENGLAND HELP THE POLICE CATCH MANY CRIMINALS.

6

VOTERS SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO SHOW IDENTIFICATION AT THE VOTING BOOTH BECAUSE IT KEEPS THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS FAIR. MANY STATES HAVE ENACTED TOUGHER VOTING LAWS TO MAKE SURE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS CAN'T VOTE. STATISTICS SAY THAT THERE IS NOT AN ABUNDANCE OF EVIDENCE OF FRAUD IN VOTING. MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE, THOUGH, THAT THESE RULES ARE FAIR BECAUSE IDENTIFICATION IS NEEDED FOR DAILY ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS CASHING A CHECK.

7

SCHOOLS, NOT STUDENTS, SHOULD HAVE TO PAY FOR ALL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES BECAUSE IT IS FAIR AND EQUITABLE. STUDENTS PAYING FEES FOR SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES MIGHT ALLOW SCHOOLS TO OFFER MORE ACTIVITIES. UNFORTUNATELY, THOUGH, PARENTS ALREADY PAID FOR THESE ACTIVITIES THROUGH THEIR LOCAL TAXES. ALSO, THESE FEES MIGHT STOP CHILDREN FROM LOWER SOCIOECONOMIC BACKGROUNDS FROM PARTICIPATING IN THESE ACTIVITIES.

8

SEPARATE CLASSROOMS WOULD HELP BENEFIT THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF BOYS AND GIRLS. BOYS AND GIRLS HAVE DIFFERENT NEEDS IN THE CLASSROOM AND IF THEY ARE TAUGHT SEPARATELY TEACHERS COULD FOCUS ON THOSE GENDER-SPECIFIC NEEDS. MANY CRITICS SAY THAT THESE CLASSES DON'T REFLECT THE REAL WORLD. THEY DO, HOWEVER, ALLOW STUDENTS TO WORK IN CLASSROOMS WITHOUT THE DISTRACTIONS THAT PRETEENS AND TEENAGERS HAVE WHEN THEY AROUND STUDENTS OF THE OPPOSITE SEX.

9

FOOTBALL IS NOT A DANGEROUS SPORT BECAUSE IT CAN BE TAUGHT SAFELY. CHILDREN CAN BE INJURED IN CYCLING, GYMNASTICS AND BASEBALL AS MUCH AS IN FOOTBALL. CHILDREN CAN BE TAUGHT TECHNIQUES FOR TACKLING THAT WILL HELP KEEP THEM SAFE. A FOOTBALL PLAYER CAN EXPERIENCE A NUMBER OF SMALL HITS TO THE HEAD. IF A COACH HAS THE PROPER TRAINING, THOUGH, PLAYERS CAN BE EXTREMELY SAFE.

10

SCHOOLS SHOULD CONDUCT RANDOM DRUG TESTS BECAUSE IT IS BENEFICIAL TO THE HEALTH OF CHILDREN. RANDOM DRUG TESTS STOP MANY CHILDREN FROM DOING DRUGS IN MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL. MANY PARENTS AND ADULTS FEEL THAT THESE DRUG TESTS ARE A VIOLATION OF STUDENT PRIVACY. DATA SHOWS THAT STUDENTS WHO START USING DRUGS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL ARE MORE LIKELY TO USE THEM AS ADULTS. IF THEY ARE DETECTED IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, STUDENTS MAY BE ABLE TO GET HELP BEFORE IT BECOMES A SERIOUS PROBLEM.

11

PARENTS SHOULD BE FINED WHEN THEIR CHILDREN BULLY BECAUSE IT WILL SEND A MESSAGE. IT IS VERY DIFFICULT FOR PARENTS TO MANAGE THEIR CHILDREN WHEN THEY LEAVE THE HOUSE AND GO TO SCHOOL. DESPITE THIS, THIRTEEN MILLION KIDS ARE BULLIED EACH YEAR AND SOMETHING NEEDS TO BE DONE. THE FINES WILL ENCOURAGE PARENTS TO FOCUS ON ANTI-BULLYING IN THE HOME.

12

PARENTS SHOULD NOT BE FINED WHEN THEIR CHILDREN BULLY BECAUSE IT IS DIFFICULT TO ENFORCE. NO MATTER HOW WELL A PARENT COMMUNICATES AN ANTI-BULLYING SENTIMENT AT HOME, THEY ARE NOT WITH THEIR CHILDREN AT SCHOOL AND CAN NOT CONTROL THEIR ACTIONS. PEOPLE THINK THE FINE WILL STOP THE THIRTEEN MILLION BULLYING CASES A YEAR. HOWEVER, A MAJORITY OF BULLYING NEVER GETS REPORTED SO NOTHING WOULD ACTUALLY HAPPEN TO THOSE CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS.

13

BOYS AND GIRLS SHOULD NOT BE EDUCATED IN SINGLE-SEX CLASSROOMS BECAUSE IT DOES NOT LEAD TO A BETTER EDUCATION. SUPPORTERS OF SINGLE-SEX EDUCATION BELIEVE THAT THIS WILL LEAD TO FEWER DISTRACTIONS IN THE CLASSROOM. SINGLE-SEX EDUCATION REINFORCES STEREOTYPES ABOUT BOYS AND GIRLS. SINGLE SEX FEMALE CLASSES TEND TO BE LESS HANDS-ON, WHICH IS SOMETHING THAT SOME GIRLS NEED. STUDENTS WILL ENCOUNTER BOTH GENDERS OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM SO IT IS IMPORTANT THEY ARE EXPOSED TO THIS AT AN EARLY AGE.

14

GROCERY STORES SHOULD NOT BAN DISPOSABLE PLASTIC BAGS BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT THAT SIGNIFICANT OF A PROBLEM. PLASTIC BAGS ACCOUNT FOR ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THE WASTE IN THE WORLD'S LANDFILLS. IT IS TRUE THAT PLASTIC BAGS ARE NOT BIODEGRADABLE. THEY ARE, THOUGH, ABLE TO BE RECYCLED. MOST GROCERY STORES HAVE STATIONS WHERE CUSTOMERS CAN RECYCLE THEIR PLASTIC BAGS.

15

SCHOOLS SHOULD NOT CONDUCT RANDOM DRUG TESTS BECAUSE IT DOESN'T SIGNIFICANTLY HELP CHILDREN. CRITICS SAY THESE RANDOM TESTS STOP CHILDREN FROM USING DRUGS IN MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL. STUDIES HAVE SHOWN, THOUGH, THAT SOME CHILDREN AVOID SPORTS SO THEY AREN'T TESTED. IF THEY AREN'T INVOLVED IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, THEY HAVE MORE TIME TO EXPERIMENT WITH DRUG USE.

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CITIES AND TOWNS SHOULD NOT INSTALL VIDEO CAMERAS FOR SURVEILLANCE BECAUSE THEY DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD. VIDEO CAMERAS ARE A VIOLATION OF AN AMERICAN'S FOURTH AMENDMENT RIGHTS WHICH PROTECTS US AGAINST "UNREASONABLE SEARCH AND SEIZURES". WHEN YOUR IMAGE IS CAPTURED AND STORED, IT IS DONE SO WITHOUT YOUR PERMISSION. MAJOR CITIES HAVE REDUCED THEIR CRIME RATE BECAUSE OF VIDEO SURVEILLANCE. CRITICS MAINTAIN THAT THE MONEY WOULD BE BETTER SPENT HIRING MORE POLICE OFFICERS. THIS WOULD MAKE PEOPLE FEEL SAFER.

17

LONGER SCHOOL DAYS COULD HARM A COMMUNITY. MANY SCHOOL DISTRICTS DO NOT HAVE THE MONEY TO PAY TEACHERS TO STAY LATER. ALSO, MANY PEOPLE ARGUE THAT STUDENTS NEED UNSTRUCTURED TIME FOR SPORTS AND PLAY. EXTENDED SCHOOL DAYS COULD PREPARE STUDENTS FOR CAREERS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL. SOME PEOPLE, THOUGH, SAY THAT THIS TAKES AWAY FROM THE CHILDHOOD OF THE STUDENTS.

18

VOTERS SHOULD NOT BE REQUIRED TO SHOW A PICTURE IDENTIFICATION AT THE POLLS BECAUSE IT ISN'T FAIR TO MILLIONS OF AMERICANS. ESTIMATES SAY THAT TWENTY MILLION ELIGIBLE VOTERS DO NOT HAVE A PICTURE IDENTIFICATION. FOR MANY, THEY CAN NOT AFFORD IT SO THIS WOULD MEAN THAT PEOPLE OF A LOWER SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS WOULD BE BARRED FROM VOTING. REQUIRING PICTURE IDENTIFICATION WOULD STOP FRAUD AT THE VOTING BOOTHS. IT WOULD ALSO STOP MILLIONS OF HARDWORKING AMERICANS FROM VOTING.

19

TOWNS SHOULD NOT BAN THE SALE OF DISPOSABLE WATER BOTTLES BECAUSE IT ADDS TO A HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE. ACCORDING TO THE INTERNATIONAL BOTTLED WATER ASSOCIATION, 63% OF PEOPLE POLLED WOULD CHOOSE A DRINK WITH SUGAR IF BOTTLED WATER WASN'T AVAILABLE. AMERICANS CONSUME 1 BILLION BOTTLES OF BEVERAGES A DAY; ONLY A SMALL PORTION OF THOSE ARE BOTTLED WATER. ENVIRONMENTALISTS, THOUGH, FEEL THAT THE ALMOST 200 MILLION DISPOSABLE BOTTLES IN LANDFILLS IS A GOOD REASON TO BAN THEM.

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