

Your name

My name

Date

Class

This is the sample and outline for Essay One that we drafted in class. I have made some changes to paragraph one. Please note that I begin to address a certain aspect of American public education – its inbuilt inequalities and its over-reliance on standardized testing (and the relationship between the two) – in my first paragraph. My definitional claim is set up to respond to this (by conceding that these problems are real, but that the schools still do have their positive aspects). Please use this model as a *guide only*. Do not use any phrases that appear in this model. It is only intended to help you think about how you might begin and structure your own paper.

Title

Problems are rampant in the American public school system. Nevertheless, some individual American schools show great potential to educate young people in core subjects. While school-aged children are exposed to science, math, and art in American public schools, they also are subject to federally mandated regular standardized testing that seeks to measure their acquisition of knowledge as well as the performance of the schools. Because standardized tests have become so pervasive in public schools today, some people argue that these tests only reify entrenched social stratification. Because there are obvious problems like the gaps in achievement across socio-economic classes and because students, individually, often sometimes become disinterested in curricula that stress regurgitation of information rather than critical thinking, many people have contended that American schools produce poorly prepared adults, unfit to compete for jobs in a global marketplace. Michael Moore, well known author of “Idiot Nation,” states that the poor education system in America creates children who chase grades and cannot think independently. Yet, despite the above-mentioned problems and the ones that Moore articulates about the American public school system in his essay “Idiot Nation,” American public school are \_\_\_\_\_ because they continue to \_\_\_\_\_.

Paragraph 2: Summarize primary text: Moore. Transition out of paragraph by directly addressing “definitional claim” and by introducing support.

Paragraph 3: One aspect of issue: introduce and employ secondary source

Paragraph 4: Another aspect; perhaps employ and further discuss same secondary source

Paragraph 5: Return to Moore. Or offer suggestions. Remind readers of the centrality of your

definitional claim – verify that it holds.

Paragraph 6: Concede or attend to counter-arguments

Paragraph 7: Conclusion

Last page: Works Cited