

Helicopter Parents Activity 21: Negotiating Voices—Letter Writing

Imagine that after reading “Putting Parents in their Place: Too Much Involvement Can Hinder Students’ Independence, Experts Say,” Principal Lisa Sinkerswim at Hardy Knox Middle School has decided she will no longer allow parents to volunteer in their children’s classrooms during school hours. What’s more, Principal Sinkerswim has issued the following Parent Involvement Policy to increase student independence:

1. Parents cannot deliver forgotten lunches, homework, jackets, or other items to their children during the school day.
2. Parents may not call or text their children during the school day.
3. Students are responsible for completing their homework assignments independently.
4. Parents cannot call or email teachers more than once per month.
5. Parents may not volunteer in classes during instructional time.
6. Parents may not challenge their students’ grades; teachers make all decisions concerning grades.
7. Except in cases of bullying or physical violence, students are expected to resolve their own conflicts.
8. Parents may not accompany their children on school field trips.
9. Parent help at the snack shack and afterschool events is welcome and appreciated.

Now imagine that Granite Oaks Middle School had this same policy. Write a letter to Principal Holmes explaining your views on her Parent Involvement Policy. Which parts of the policy, if any, do you think are good ideas? Which parts, if any, do you think are bad ideas? Why? Make sure that you use your quotes from the two texts followed by (Author, par. #). Make sure that you type your letter with your Heading, a salutation (Dear Mr. Holmes), the body of your letter, and a salutation (Sincerely, John Smith). ***This is due by the end of the day Fri. Dec. 19, 2014.***

Scott Victor
12/19/14
Period A
Legacy Academy

Dear Mr. Holmes:

I want you to know that limiting parent involvement at Granite Oaks Middle School is a (terrible, awful, wonderful, smart, intelligent) idea for the following reasons. (**Then Finish Your Letter**)

Sincerely,

Scott Victor

Remember, you must use quotes and document them correctly in order to pass! Submit twice!
Say: According to Valerie Strauss, “A Concerned Parent” contends Blank argues, states, claims