

Collection of Evidence 9

Performance Assessments to Verify Credit in Writing

Achievement Level: Pass/Proficient

This collection of student writing should be used in conjunction with the VDOE-provided annotation and the *Performance Level Descriptors (2017)* to evaluate collections of evidence and determine if a verified credit in writing is to be awarded.

Do I think the American Dream is still alive? No, I do not think the American Dream is still alive. Based off of the text the American Dream is a belief that hard work pays off and that the next generation will be better than the previous. A lot of people use to believe in the American Dream, but after the worst recession in almost a century many feel the dream is in jeopardy. The American Dream is dead especially for Immigrants.

First off, the American Dream is dead because after the worst recession in almost a century the American Dream just died. Nobody believed in it anymore because they didn't think that it was achievable after the economic decline. As an immigrant I think that it died mostly because of the raising in taxes and the economic decline making it hard to make money at a lot of places. The raises in taxes has made it only harder and harder to achieve the American Dream and that only the wealthiest people have achieved it.

The 1980's was when the worst recession in almost a century occurred. During this time crop prices declined a lot making it hard on farmers to make money. Because of this it affected a lot of people because they were not making a lot of money until the recession ended in 1982. After that while some people still believed in the American Dream many did not, many considered the American Dream dead after the recession in the early 1980's. It made a lot of people lose faith because it was a time where a lot of people were unemployed and were lacking wealth. The recession in the 1980's for sure took a toll on how people thought about the American Dream.

While some people think that today the American Dream is still possible others don't. Reaching the American Dream is considered impossible to many people today especially Immigrants because while it is a lot easier today for an Immigrant to get a job it is still hard. That makes them think that reaching the American Dream impossible. That effects the way people see the American Dream so to me I think the American Dream is unreachable now. Unless in the future the taxes go down and the criteria to get a job is the same for all people then that could help make the American Dream reachable again.

Overall I think the American Dream is no longer alive and is unreachable because of the way society and the economy is today. There are ways that the American Dream can become reachable again but until then I think the American Dream is considered dead. Only the wealthiest probably think the American Dream is still reachable.

"A Rose for Emily"

This story "A Rose for Emily," written by William Faulkner, has many gothic literature elements. Some of the most important key elements would be; suspense and mystery, decay and failing light source. There are many other gothic literature elements but these are three of the main ones. These three main gothic literature elements are very important to this story because they represent key points of what's happening in this story.

The first gothic literature element used in this story "A Rose for Emily," is suspense and mystery. There are lots of moments when William Faulkner in this story uses this specific element. It is one of the most commonly used gothic literature elements. A great example of suspense and mystery would be, " A deputation waited upon her, knocked at the door through which no visitor had passed since she ceased giving china-painting lessons eight or ten years later" (pg2). This quote is used for suspense and mystery because it explains how long ago since she has had someone come to her house and knock on the door. She explains that it has been about eight to ten years since anyone has showed up and when they did, it was for china-painting lessons. "Like when she bought the rat poison, the arsenic"(pg5). In this quote they also explained how it was strange that Miss Emily just bought poison out of nowhere. It was a constant waiting game on when she was going to use the poison. The neighborhood that Miss Emily lived at in Mississippi, was hoping that she wasn't going to use the poison on herself or anyone else.

Another very important key element in this story is decay. William Faulker is always expressing decay in this story. He expresses it in different ways every time he uses it. "It was a big, squarish frame house that had once been white" (pg1). In this quote, Faulkner explains that the house Miss Emily died in and also lived in when she was alive was a big, white and squarish house. The house used to be white, not anymore. Since the house is not white anymore, it is a sign of decay. The quote shows how the white that used to be on the house faded away to become an off white color. Another good example of decay would be, "Miss Emily with her head high and Homer Barron with his hat crooked and a cigar in his teeth, reins and whip in a yellow glove" (pg5). When a story uses yellow as describing something, most of the time it represents decay. Therefore, there are two very good examples of decay that are used in this story.

The last key gothic literature element would be failing light source. Failing light source is kind of interesting because it's creepy and mysterious most of the time when it is used. The first quote used for failing light source would be, "Spinning with slow motes in the single sun-ray" (pg2). That would be strange if that was the case. Just having a single sun-ray is very strange. Normally, there are many more rays of sunlight that shine. "Her gray head propped on a pillow yellow and moldy with age and lack of sunlight" (pg7). This quote is extremely important because Faulkner is describing the room that Miss Emily died in. Faulkner was explaining that the room didn't have a lot of sunlight which is using a lot of detail which is great.

All of these gothic elements such as; suspense and mystery, decay and failing light source are some of the most used gothic elements. All of these quotes are very detailed about what they are talking about or trying to say. The reason for suspense and mystery would be because this story has a lot of suspense and you never know what is going to happen next. People are always on the edge of their seats when reading stories that have suspense and mystery. Reasons for decay being so important is because you can just imagine things decaying with how detailed Faulkner's literature "A Rose for Emily" is. Last but not least, failing light source is also a big element in this story because you can imagine not having enough light or just that little ray of sunshine. While reading this story you can think about what the characters are saying and doing as Faulkner is explaining everything.

No More Discipline

Students are getting away with bad behavior. Schools and administration are replacing discipline with fun things. In some schools such as Doull Elementary in Denver, schools in Pittsburgh and also schools in Maine are doing yoga and meditation instead of discipline. Schools are deciding that if a student gets in trouble, misbehaves or mouths off at a teacher that they will not get punished in the old fashioned way by getting in school suspension, going to an alternative learning center or out of school suspension. Administration is letting the students that get in trouble do fun things instead of having disciplinary consequences.

The disciplinary actions from administration should be in school suspension, out of school suspension, or an alternative learning center. This way the students will understand that what they did was unacceptable. Sometimes even before the teachers and administration start the discipline, which is yoga or meditation, the students can go to a cool down room. The cool down room is used for students that would like to talk about their problems and talk about why the student decided to misbehave in this way. They are allowed to talk to a school counselor, teacher or trusted adult during this time.

If a student misbehaves in any way, there needs to be consequences. Students do not need to be able to do fun things when they misbehave. This is not discipline. If administration doesn't give students the disciplinary actions that they deserve for their actions that the students chose to do, they will never learn from their mistakes. If a student uses profanity to use for a teacher or one of their classmates then they should

get in school suspension or go to an alternative learning center at the minimum as a punishment. If the students don't have respect for their teacher, classmates, or administration then they don't deserve respect back. Treat others the way you would like to be treated. Therefore, if students would like to be treated with respect then they need to understand how to have respect towards adults and their classmates. If a student is having issues in school or at home, then they need to talk to a counselor or a trusted adult. This way the student and the adult that the student talks to are both on the same page about what is going on. This way the trusted adult can set up counseling or someone to talk to the student to help the student with what is going on in their life. This way hopefully it will stop the student from any bad things that they would even think about doing. If the student has an outburst even after he or she has talked to an adult about their problems there needs to be disciplinary consequences.

Another reason why yoga and meditation is not working nor a good idea is because a lot of students feel like it is a race issue. In the article Restorative Justice Isn't Working, but That's Not What the Media is Reporting; Max Eden explains, "There were significant and substantial negative effects on math achievement for middle school students, black students, and students in schools that are predominantly black." Black students feel attacked by this decision and the changes of the disciplinary consequences. No student should ever feel this way. No student should ever feel like they are the reason for anything because of their race. It is so wrong and disrespectful to the students. Administration isn't fixing this issue for the black students.

Some people may say that having the discipline as yoga and meditation is great. Those people say that this change is amazing because there are more students that are showing up for detention since it's something that the students seem to enjoy. Some also say that there has been less fighting, bullying and less students that are getting in trouble. On the other hand, students now want to get in trouble and get detention because they want to be able to do yoga and meditation. Since yoga and meditation is the new punishment, students are wanting to get in trouble so that they can do yoga and meditation. Although, yoga and meditation is not discipline. It is something that students would want to do. Punishment and discipline is supposed to be teaching the students something. Discipline is not supposed to be fun, it is supposed to be horrible so that you won't want to misbehave again. The students will not learn from their mistakes because instead of being disciplined, they are getting to do fun things that some students enjoy doing. In reality, students would want to get in trouble because the students who are misbehaving are getting to do yoga and meditation, the kids who are following the rules are not getting to do anything fun. According to Jill Barshay in her article *The Promise of Restorative Justice Starts to Falter Under Rigorous Research* she explains, "Sometimes, early adopters even claimed that student achievement improved. But the studies tended to be small, and they tracked only what happened to students who participated in the program without comparing them to similar students who didn't participate." Therefore, this research was only done on students who misbehaved. It was not a fair research.

Another huge reason why administration should not put students that misbehave in yoga or meditation is because it is against many students beliefs. Students are being forced to

do yoga or meditation as a punishment no matter what they believe in or don't believe in. In Jill Barshay's article called *The Promise of Restorative Justice Starts to Falter Under Rigorous Research* she explains, "Kids in the treatment group hadn't experienced as much restorative justice as they imagined while kids in the control group experienced more than expected." Therefore, students shouldn't have to be religious or go to church just to be disciplined in this way.

In conclusion, students should be disciplined in the old fashioned way by getting put in an alternative learning center, in school suspension or out of school suspension. This way nobody will be effected in any way. Black students won't feel attacked, students who aren't religious won't be going against their beliefs and students will learn from their mistakes. Yoga and meditation isn't a fair punishment. Students need to learn from their mistakes and suffer the consequences of their misbehavior.