



Emerging | Exemplar Essay

Protecting Communities from Sea Level Rise

Give People the Power



Claim and Focus

The essay attempts to present a position (“The people who live in a place should decide what’s best for climate change”) but it is vague and does not address the demands of the task.



Support and Evidence

The essay relies heavily on hypothetical reasoning (“Think about if a flood happened right now”) as there is no quoted evidence and minimal reference is made to the provided sources. Counterclaims are not acknowledged.



Organization

Transitions are largely absent and connections between ideas are difficult to follow. The essay is not structured as a letter, the introduction is minimal and does not orient the reader to the essay’s position, and a conclusion is missing entirely.



Language

Sentence structure is mostly simplistic, at times incorrect, and language is mostly informal and inappropriate for the reader’s interests (“So they should make the call on what to do,” “I wouldn’t want someone else coming in and telling us what we had to build like they did in Miami”).



Using Exemplars in Your Lessons

Exemplar essays are tools to take abstract descriptions and make them more concrete for students. One way to use them is to print the clean copies of the essays and allow students to use the rubric to make notes or even find examples of important elements of an essay - thesis statements, introductions, evidence, conclusions, transitions, etc. Teachers can also use exemplars to illustrate what each score point within a trait ‘looks like’ in an authentic student essay. For additional ideas, please see “25 Ways to Use Exemplar Essays” by visiting the Curriculum Resources page in Help.

Protecting Communities from Sea Level Rise



Notes

Give People the Power

The people who live in a place should decide what's best for climate change. They will have to deal with whatever happens if it floods. So they should make the call on what to do.

Think about if a flood happened right now. All of your town was destroyed. The skate park. The ice cream place. Your family's restaurant. And then some people who don't even live there come in and want to put an office building or a Wal-Mart or something. The town should be built back the way it was. The government can help and there are other places that can help too like the NOAA so they can all work together. If my neighborhood flooded I wouldn't want someone else coming in and telling us what we had to build like they did in Miami. That's not fair.