



Developing | Exemplar Essay

Protecting Communities from Sea Level Rise

Help the Communities



Claim and Focus

A claim is presented (“The government should help coastal communities deal with these problems”) but the essay lacks clarity on whether federal or local officials should be the decision-makers (“The government should fix the problems that exist and help these communities”).



Support and Evidence

Evidence from two of the four sources is referenced but not properly quoted and reasoning demonstrates a superficial understanding of the texts (“The government has the power to help but they don’t always do what’s best or protect the people from pollution”). Counterclaims are not properly addressed.



Organization

Paragraphs support a basic organizational structure but neither show a logical progression of ideas nor the elements of a letter. Transitions are basic (“But,” “Now,” “For example”) and could more purposefully show the relationships between ideas.



Language

Language is not consistently formal (“so they are stuck dealing with all the problems”) and word choices are general and often repetitive (“problem”). Perspective and voice are inconsistent and sentence structure is somewhat unvaried (“The government...”).



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



Help the Communities

Living near the ocean is a dream many people have. But as wonderful as the ocean can be, it can also be dangerous. Beach houses and neighborhoods near the water have plenty of problems to deal with. Water damage is always a problem, especially after storms and hurricanes. Now with climate change, sea level rise is a major problem that all coastal cities are facing. The government should help coastal communities deal with these problems.

People who have money are moving away from the water to avoid this problem. The people who don't have the money are staying near the water. They can't afford to move so they are stuck dealing with all the problems the water brings like when it floods their houses and whole neighborhood.

The government should help these communities. For example in Miami, the government built new barriers and pump stations to deal with the water. In Maryland, the government decided to dig tunnels for the water to go through so it wouldn't go downtown. The government has the power to help but they don't always do what's best or protect the people from pollution. The government should pass the Environmental Justice for All Act. It would allow communities to sue companies that are polluting their communities.

Cities that are on the water face many problems. The government should fix the problems that exist and help these communities.