**In-Text Citations and Language Clarity**

Read the samples below and consider what could make each sample stronger.

**STUDENT SAMPLE #1**

*An introductory paragraph and two body paragraphs*

Those who think different

Today, the educational environment is slowly changing. As common core and other educational standards will be implemented into the educational system. Teachers try to find a way how to catch students attention into learning the lesson. Usually how students are taught is by a chalk board and the teacher speaks. As we discover different learning styles teachers have to create new ways to teach students. In both Gardner’s “Five minds for the future” and “How to bring Our Schools into the 21st Century” by Wallis and Steptoe. Both articles discusses how change that can be implemented in an educational environment that would prepare students better for the future.

One change that can be implemented into the educational environment is to be creative. In Howard Gardner’s “Five minds of the future,” he discusses about having a creative mind. Gardner mentions that a creative mind seeks to remain at least one step ahead (Gardner 112). Some teachers forbid students to be creative into solving problems in math. For example, a student may find a new idea for solving a math problem, but the teacher will ask the student to do it his or her way, the way it’s taught in the class. I believe students are entitled to have their unique ideas to solve a problem. As a result, giving the students the freedom to show their creative mind in the classroom can be a good asset to have for the educational environment.

Being creative is to be ahead of everyone else. Individuals who are creative do not want to be behind. In the article “How to bring our Schools in the 21st Century” Claudia Wallis and Sonja Steptoe mentions about Thinking Outside of the Box. Wallis and Steptoe explains that jobs in the new economy puts an enormous premium on creative and innovative skills (Wallis and Steptoe 118). This shows that individuals need to be creative in their work environment. But how do individuals acquire creative skills. Wallis and Steptoe mentions that kids must learn to think across disciplines. (Wallis and Steptoe 119). Therefore, kids need to learn how to be discipline to have the creative skill.

**STUDENT SAMPLE #2**

*An introductory paragraph and the first body paragraph*

Standardized Testing

As we all know, education plays a major role in society today. The world depends on education in order to advance in medical and technological research. Education is the main component in a stable society, it plays an important role in our economy, medical research, and technology. Without education, the world would not be able to function properly. In the essay “How to bring our schools into the 21st century” by Claudia Wallis discusses how educational institutions should be changed to address changes in technology and address the personal skills necessary for young people to advance in today’s society. One change that could be implemented in an educational environment that would prepare students for the future is to increase standardized testing rates and stop lowering testing standards.

One problem that needs to be fixed in society today is standardized testing. The board of education is lowering testing standards for high school students, decreasing their motivation for school. Every student is required to take a standardized test to determine how well they perform in different subjects. This test can help determine the strengths and weaknesses of a student, which would allow for improvement on the students weaknesses. When students are required to take a test, they are encouraged to set high goals for themselves, which motivates them to do better. Decreasing the standardized testing rates lowers student’s interest for learning. A student’s willingness to learn harder material is also immensely impacted because it’s harder for them to preform complicated tasks because their critical thinking skills are not being used enough. In Howard Gardner’s essay “Five minds for the future” emphasizes the importance of skills the mind has to develop in order to successfully thrive in our increasingly interconnected world. Students must develop skills in order to be able to accomplish difficult tasks. When things are made easier, students get used to being spoon fed, and taking the easy way out in everything. This has a major impact on a student’s future because these skills are necessary to develop in order to be successful in life. This is the main reason why students have a hard time once they enter college because of the amount of work that is required. Students should be encouraged to work harder in order to prepare for college. There are far more expectations and more work expected from students in college. A decrease in testing causes students to be less engaged in school and lowers their abilities and skills to perform difficult tasks.