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English1101
Unit 3 genre writing draft

Part 1: Writing in a Genre

8 Reasons you might be contributing to the school to prison pipeline

1. You aren't giving students the proper resources

10 million students are in a school with police officers but no social workers meaning that their problems will not be heard, and they'll be pushed straight into the jail system.

2. You are too strict with students

Strictness deeply affects students' future as students who attend stricter schools are 15% more likely to drop out of school, so reducing this number as low as possible is a better solution.

3. Your suspensions are simply just a quick solution

One of the biggest issues is the fact that suspensions only worsen the situation as that student will just be behind on their education.

4. You are treating your students like numbers

Another big issue is that principals treat schools as a numbers game and don't want to take accountability for low scores so when there is an underperforming student they'll just be cast aside and not provide proper means to help these students out.

Trivia Break: Did you know that in 2011-12 half of all Californian public school suspensions were due to willful defiance. Meaning that students were simply banned just for saying no when told to remove their hat or turning off their cell phone.

5. You aren't recognizing the unique needs of each school

Principals tend to have a one shoe fits all approach with strictness which should not be the case as each school has their own unique problems that with proper techniques could be handled better than just suspensions.

6. You are letting system inequities harm your students

The biggest problem in the school to prison pipeline is the inequities between racial groups as students of color are the most affected by it. Realizing and understanding this is the first step to preventing the pipeline in the first place.

7. You are not connecting enough with your students

You are a role model to these students so instead of being a scary figure you can get to know them more.

8. Lastly, ALWAYS TALK WITH YOUR STUDENTS

Most of the time students have outbursts due to other reasons whether at school or at home. And unfortunately, they simply get suspended without having someone to talk out these problems to

Overall, the school-to-prison pipeline is an issue that starts with principals. Reevaluating practices would be a good step in the right direction. Alongside new methods of disciplining, you must take into consideration students' well-being and address any systemic inequities within your school or area. Promoting student to teacher/principal communication is also a great idea to ensure students don't steer off and make bad mistakes. With all these resources and more, you'll be creating a more inclusive school environment that not only allows students to thrive and succeed but also prevents them from just becoming a statistic.

Sources:

Billings, Stephen B., et al. "Proving the School-to-Prison Pipeline." *Education Next*, 21 Dec.

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Hewitt, Damon, et al. "Unlawful Discrimination." *School-to-Prison Pipeline: Structuring Legal Reform*, New York University Press, 2010, pp 32-35.

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rxUKU8Rtakw&t=570s&ab_channel=TEDxTalks

School-To-Prison Pipeline, American Bar Association,

www.americanbar.org/groups/diversity/racial_ethnic_justice/projects/school_to_prison/statistics/.

Part 2: Reflection

I chose to write in the listicle genre, A listicle is a form of writing whereas the name states you write down everything in a list and explain it. BuzzFeed was the one to popularize it and used its simplicity and effectiveness to create multiple bite-sized articles. With all this being said the reason why I chose it was for its easy-to-follow and straightforward structure. I must curate my

writing towards principals, and they are generally one of the busiest people on the planet as they have to care for students and staff while also handling meetings and parent relations. If I were to create any other genre, they would likely ignore it due to time constraints. Another reason for choosing this topic was because of the demographic of principals. The average age of a principal is around 50 which means they aren't too tech savvy. This would mean other methods would be obsolete and they wouldn't know what they're looking at. However, if they were just handed a list that can be read quickly then they'll have no problem with it. My main audience would be principals because they are at the forefront of my topic, they have the most impactful role in the school system and their policies affect the student's well-being and overall performance in school. I think my audience somewhat knows about my topic but because of time constraints, they cannot go in depth. If they were given a concise list with those in-depth details, then they'd be well-informed and able to create better policies. Of course, this comes with drawbacks as the biggest concern principals would have is "How would the parents react?". If they were to be more lenient with suspensions perhaps it'd make parents angry however if they were explained on just how hurtful suspensions really are they'd be more understanding with leniency and come up with alternatives that don't set the student up for failure. The first trait of listicles is their clear structure. There aren't any fancy ways of formatting it or any other complex layers, it's just a list. The second trait is that they have unique headlines. Headlines are the most important features in grabbing a reader's attention, with that said listicles are known for their headlines as they're usually short but compel interest in readers. The third trait is that they're incredibly concise. Conciseness is key in today's world as people would much rather read a short article explaining a topic to them rather than a whole article that goes on forever. The fourth trait is that they can be visually appealing. In listicles, you can include images or gifs to keep your reader interested or

better understand the topic. The fifth trait is that they can be formatted to suit different people. Because of its simplicity, you can change its wording or images to better fit an audience without steering too far off from the genre. And the last reason is that they can be easily summarized. Because you gave your readers a good chunk of information in a short manner, they can better understand the conclusion and be easily convinced to get involved in a call to action.