

BELLRINGER BOMBS

YOU HAVE ONLY SEVEN MINUTES TO WRITE TWO PARAGRAPHS ON THE FOLLOWING TOPIC ONCE THE BELL RINGS [This will be collected after 7 minutes]

Because government cannot provide everything we need, Thomas Sowell says in his essay “Needs,” we need to establish priorities for allocating public funds. Write an essay that lays out what you believe should be the priorities in government spending. What must government provide, and what should it not be responsible for?

*no yous, no I anything, no sentence starters: there are, there is, it is,

*first paragraph answers prompt and has clear position, doesn't rephrase prompt, attention grabbing!

*body paragraph needs a topic sentence, transition words, no use or said or a lot, and at least three examples (personal, historical, literary, or other connections)

*be specific in your descriptions

*use pathos, ethos, logos

*use varied sentence structure

* use a rhetorical question *use an analogy

*give specific and descriptive concrete examples and explanations

*give credit to what your opponent might consider

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After reading Thomas Sowell's essay "Needs," write a carefully reasoned essay about Americans' current beliefs about what we really need.

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According to Buckley, individuals do not complain because they expect others to do so for them. Unmotivated people who are scared to take initiatives are widespread. In a well-written essay, develop a position on this topic. Support your position with evidence from your reading, observation, and/or experience.

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Just about all of us have resorted to double speak at one time or another when making an excuse, when trying to conceal the fact that we're unprepared for an exam, when trying to impress a supervisor or a potential employer. Write a narrative about a time you used deliberately unclear language, perhaps language that you yourself didn't understand. What were your circumstances? Did you consciously decide to use unclear language or did it just leak out? How did others react to your use of language?

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Pick one quote to argue, defend, or concede.

“The cruelest lies are often told in silence.” R.L. Stevenson

“Where opinion does not exist, the status quo becomes stereotyped and all originality is discouraged.” Bertrand Russell

“We lie loudest when we lie to ourselves.” Eric Hoffer

“The liar’s punishment...is that he cannot believe anyone else.” George Bernard Shaw

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In July 2009, the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty and the National Coalition for the Homeless published a report titled “Homes Not Handcuffs: The Criminalization of Homelessness in U.S. Cities.” According to the article “the trend of criminalizing homelessness continues to grow” during the same time our economic crisis has been creating a larger homeless population. In a well-written essay, develop a position on homelessness. Support your position with evidence from your reading, observation, and/or experience.

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The weekly feature of online Huffingtonpost.com is a column presented to discussing parenting issues. In her article “Gwen: The American Homeless Girl,” Emily Sweitzer conveys her concern over Mattel’s recent addition to the collection.”

She might never live in Barbie's dream-house, but Gwen Thompson is the talk of toy town. She's the world's first "homeless" doll. The forlorn figurine is the newest member of the posh American Girl doll collection. Owned by Mattel, American Girl has been selling expensive and popular dolls for over two decades. This year, they introduced Thompson, a grade school girl who lives with her mother in the family car. A representative for American Girl says the doll is meant to teach tolerance and is part of an outreach program teaching young girls how to spot bullying and stand up and speak out against it. Owned by Mattel, American Girl has been selling expensive and popular dolls for over two decades. [One homeless advocate] observed to Kauffman that she finds "the whole concept to be extremely disturbing. It's not a doll I would ever buy for a child." There are between 7,000 and 10,000 homeless children in L.A. alone, Kauffman notes, and it's doubtful many, if any, could afford Gwen's \$95 price tag. One homeless woman in a shelter Kauffman visited said Gwen touched her heart when she saw the doll in its box. The women praised the doll, Kauffman reports, until they learned Gwen isn't a fundraising device for the homeless. "I don't even see why you would make a homeless doll, anyway," one woman said to Kauffman, unless it was being used to raise money to help charities aiding the homeless.

In a well-written essay, develop a position on the ethics of the toy industry and this doll. Support your position with evidence from your reading, observation, and/or experience.

A weekly feature of The New York Times Magazine is a column by Randy Cohen called "The Ethicist," in which people raise ethical questions to which Cohen provides answers. The question below is from the column that appeared on April 2, 2009.

"At my high school, various clubs and organizations sponsor charity drives, asking students to bring in money, food, and clothing. Some teachers offer bonus points on tests and final averages as incentives to participate. Some parents believe that this sends a morally wrong message, undermining the value of charity as a selfless act. Is the exchange of donations for grades O.K. ?"

The practice of offering incentives for charitable acts is widespread, from school projects to fund drives by organizations such as public television stations, to federal income tax deductions for contributions to charities. In a well-written essay, develop a position on the ethics of offering incentives for charitable acts. Support your position with evidence from your reading, observation, and/or experience.