

2023 State Journalism Championship



#4 Newspaper Editorial Writing

Time Limit – 1:15

Directions: You are a reporter for the student newspaper. From the given information, write an editorial in the collective voice. Remember that as an editorial writer you should support or oppose policy or action; you should not sermonize. Entries will be evaluated on presenting a clear idea, convincing reasoning, supporting evidence, and quality of writing.

When you are finished:

1. Type or print your first and last name on your advertisement.
2. Save your document as a PDF with the filename: **yourfirstlastname_NewspaperEditorialWriting_Class (For example: SusieSmith_NewspaperEditorialWriting_ClassA)**
3. Notify the proctor when you are finished.

Los Santos High School, located in Fireside, has 900 students enrolled in grades 9-12. Last week, Principal Harold Lake introduced an updated school lunch policy to the students and faculty. The policy states: “Los Santos will be stamping the hands of all students who have negative lunch account balances. These stamps will serve as reminders for parents to pay their students’ lunch bills. If students have negative balances, they will not be able to purchase seconds until their balance is paid in full.”

THOSE SUPPORTING THE POLICY

Policies like hand stamping will help the school district to eliminate outstanding lunch balances, which are an issue every year for the Los Santos School District.

THOSE OPPOSING THE POLICY

This policy will have detrimental effects on students by shaming them for having negative balances.

Harold Lake, Principal

“The stamps are intended to remind parents to add money to their child’s account. We love all our students and are not trying to shame them in any way.”

Dr. Rodger Atwood, Superintendent

“I am passionate about providing my community with a balanced budget. Many times parents forget to pay their lunch bill, so we hope this will serve as a good reminder to do so. Paying off lunch account balances will provide more money for our district, which can then be used to support the education of our students. Each year there are thousands of dollars in unpaid lunch accounts. This must stop.”

Tyler Matthews, parent

“This is an excellent policy change. It’s gonna help our town get out of debt. If bills exist they need to be paid. It’s called being an adult. Pay your bills!”

Sherry Smith, parent

“As a single mother of three high school children, I am sometimes unable to stay on top of my lunch balances. Putting a stamp on a student is going to do nothing except single them out to their peers. Why make my child pay for my financial issues?”

Dean Johnson, student

“This policy change is probably good even though I bet I have an outstanding lunch balance right now.”

Sierra O’Malley, student

“I don’t feel this policy is necessary. This is going to separate students who can afford lunch and those who cannot. I don’t agree with this.”

Anonymous Teacher

“Students have enough to deal with. Why are we adding more stress to their day? This is one of the most bone-headed policies our current administration has ever thought of. What is next? Not letting them eat?”

A concerned parent

“This is going to be detrimental to the mental health and wellness of our students. Just watch. This has to be against the law, right? Something like this seriously can’t happen. My heart breaks for anyone who has to be separated from their peers and marked with a stamp that tells everyone they have an overdrawn lunch balance. It’s absurd.”