Initial Post:

Hi everyone,

My draft is attached. Here is my revision plan:

Developing written ideas has always been challenging for me. I am getting better at using prewriting techniques to help me extend my first ideas for any piece of writing. My draft follows the directions, but I need to add more details about what other people are concerned about, not just what I think. My writing voice may be too self-involved, and I may be using the first person, “I,” too much. Because I am a parent, the description of how children usually like to learn is pretty good. As I work my draft over, I’m reading out loud to hear the fragments that still sneak out sometimes.

Please let me know if you have any suggestions!

Sonya

Response to a Classmate:

Hi Sonya,

Based on the file you attached, I completed a post-draft outline of your draft:

I. This is your introduction and your thesis that school districts need new materials that address the play-reading needs of first through fourth graders.

II. Here is some information on what is happening in your own children’s school district. You give some details on what they have complained about and what they like. You give some details of what the teachers say during parent-teacher conferences.

III. Here is more about what your kids’ teachers have talked about. There are some comments of what you have heard about your state’s K–12 budget.

IV. This part is about problems or concerns you have as a parent; you add a little bit from parents you know.

V. Conclusion: each state and each district will have to listen to the parents and educators and look for compromises.

I can follow your paper’s ideas pretty well from start to finish. I’m a parent, too, and I can empathize with your concerns. Some sentences have run-ons or comma splices that make some of your sentences hard to understand; I had to read a few sentences twice to understand fully. Maybe give your own children’s ages and the state
where you live; you could add the name of your kids’ school district, too, or maybe make up a name if you want privacy. I think there is a little bit of repeated ideas from your kids’ teachers in your last body paragraph. Maybe what your kids talk about could be in one paragraph, and then make the last paragraph all about the teachers’ ideas and what you all have heard from the district about the budget. If you add a lot more about either the teacher’s ideas or the district’s problems, maybe even add one more paragraph. You probably don’t need to put two or three of the same kinds of complaints, though; just summarize the top teacher concerns. I like your draft, and your final version could even be used as a letter to your children’s school district, or copies given to the PTA. Good job!

Stacie R.