

Sample Persuasive Essay

Summer: 15 Days or 2 1/2 Months?

The final bell rings. It's the last day of school, and summer has finally come! Students don't have to think about school for at least another 2 1/2 months. That is the way it should always be. Schools should continue using the traditional calendar and not a year-round schedule. There are numerous downsides to extending the school year. Students should not be required to go to school year round because it is **expensive**, disrupts the long-awaited **summer vacation**, and has **no positive effects on education**.

Like any other facility, keeping a school open requires a great deal of money. When a school changes to a year-round schedule, the costs skyrocket. Keeping school open in the middle of summer requires air conditioning, and that adds significantly to the school's expenses. The usual utility bills grow because of the additional open-school time. Then, teachers must be paid for all the extra weeks they are working. With all these factors, the cost of keeping schools open becomes immensely high. For example, a high school in Arizona had a cost increase of \$157,000 when they switched to year-round schooling. Some schools may not be able to handle such increases, and other schools that can handle these expenses could be doing better things with the money. *Clearly, year-round school is not a financially responsible choice for most schools.*

Intro Paragraph: begins by catching the reader's attention. Ends with the **thesis statement** that clearly the author's position on the topic.

Body paragraph #1: Supporting reason is stated in the topic sentence followed by factual and effective evidence of support. *Paragraph ends with a closing sentence*

An important, never-forgotten part of a child's life is summertime. With year-round schedules, students would hardly have any time to relax. During the 15-day breaks, they would be thinking about their quick return to school. It would also be difficult to coordinate family vacations with parents' work schedules. Similarly, children would not be able to go to most summer camps. One expert, Dr. Peter Scales, says, "The biggest plus of camp is that camps help young people discover and explore their talents, interests, and values. Most schools don't satisfy all these needs. Kids who have these kinds of [camp] experiences end up being healthier and have fewer problems." Obviously, the summer is crucial to a child's learning and development. *Summer, an important, developmental time in a young person's life, should not be sacrificed to school.*

Body paragraph #2: Another supporting reason is stated in the topic sentence followed by factual, and effective evidence of support. *Paragraph ends with a closing sentence.*

It is true that many people believe that year-round schooling will improve education. Educators and parents seem to agree that eliminating the long summer layoff means less time wasted on review each fall and quicker progress to new material. Contrary to this belief, year-round schooling has no constructive impact on education. Most year-round schedules use the 45-15 method: 45 days of school followed by 15 days off. Because of this, there are many first and last days of school. All those transitions severely disrupt

Body paragraph #3: Counter argument is stated in the topic sentence followed by factual, and effective statements to disprove/rebut the objections...

the learning process. Most importantly, there is no evidence of higher test scores from year-round schooling. There seem to be no academic benefits gained for the students, yet at a higher cost. Due to that, many schools that change to year-round schedules end up switching back. For example, since 1980, 95 percent of schools that tried the year-round schedule changed back to a traditional calendar. *It is obvious that changing to year-round schooling does not help students; therefore, why is the change necessary?*

Paragraph ends with a closing sentence

Because it is not cost-effective, eliminates summer vacations, and is not educationally sound, it is evident that year-round schooling is not the best option for the school calendar.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with the traditional school year. Why change something that works so well? The final bell rings. Let's make sure this bell means that the "real" summer vacation has come. *Keep the nine month school year and allow kids to be kids.*

Closing paragraph begins by **restating the thesis** and ends with a *call to action*.

Works Cited

"BLACK HISTORY MONTH: Before Rosa Parks, There Was Lizzie Jennings." *Latest Updates!* Web. 23 Feb. 2011.
<<http://www.ustownhall.com/usth/index.php/politics/new-york/73-lizzie-jennings>.

Dawn, Wendy. "Early Civil Rights Activist Elizabeth "Lizzie" Jennings Brown." *Associated Content from Yahoo! - Associatedcontent.com*. Web. 23 Feb. 2011.
<http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/610003/early_civil_rights_activist_elizabeth.html

Levy, Peter B. *Let Freedom Ring: a Documentary History of the Modern Civil Rights Movement*. New York: Praeger, 1992. Print.

Please notice that the sources are in alphabetical order and that the first line of each source begins at the margin and all following lines are indented.