

## Sample Draft of a Persuasive Piece

### Can We Go Out Back?

*Editor's Note: On the original hand-written version, the words in brackets below were written above the line.*

If you look outside [your office] at playspace you will probably see [a few] kids walking around with nothing to do.

If you're not a big fan of basketball or soccer then pretty much the only thing to do is swing or play on playspace.

But since playspace is so often crowded, and the swings so often taken then lots of kids are left just walking around, or ~~just~~ sitting down. This does not give ~~us~~ [anyone] much exercise.

If you let ~~us~~ [the fifth graders] play in the back of the school [and the front at both recesses] we'll get a lot more exercise. We'll also want to go to school more because we can look forward to having fun recesses.

I know that we would need 2 more teachers to supervise the back playground, but I often see 3 or 4 teacher standing on the blacktop talking to each other. We really only need 1 teacher on the blacktop, so 2 others could go out back.

Children might also disturb classes inside. This could be prevented by having a rule that says kids have to play at least 4 ft. away from the walls. If someone doesn't [follow that rule] that person will have to miss the next 1/2 hr. recess and ~~4/4 hr.~~ [15 min.] recess.

These rules would teach kids resposibilty about following rules.

Another benefit of the back playground is a small black top. This could be reserved for the kids who enjoy jumpropeing.

The back playground also has a jungle gym. This gives us coordination and balenceing skills. It also helps strengthen our abdominal muscles. When we hang upside down [with no hands] it takes strength to get back up! Many children also enjoy talking on top of it. This gives us better social skills.

There are 10 swings out back too; all of which are tall enough for fifth graders to swing on. These swings, especially the big ones, strengthen our arm and leg muscles with pumping.

Of course, the swings might get crowded, but there could be lines, and each kid would get approx. 5 min. on the swing. This would help us remember to share.

There is also a tether ball in the spring. This is an enjoyable pastime for many fifth graders. This also strengthens our arm muscles. It also teaches us to include people and take turns, because tether ball is only a 2-person game. \*

I think that only fifth graders should have a choice of back [of the school] or front. ~~or both~~ That way it won't get too crowded when the fourth and fifth graders have their recess together. Since we are also more mature and responsible, ~~then the rest of school~~ we would also be able to handle it better.

**[1]**

If you do this you will have a school with healthier, happier 5<sup>th</sup> graders. They will ~~have~~ more fun [enjoyment out of recess] because [we] ~~they~~ can do what ~~they~~ [we] want to do at recess, not wasting 15 minutes waiting for a swing, or fighting over whose turn it is. ~~They~~ [We] would make new friends while playing tether ball or climbing on the jungle gym. ~~They~~ [We] would learn new things, develop new skills, strengthen more muscles, and make new friends. We would be much happier.

**[2]**

I hope you will consider this for everybody in fifth grade. They'll get more exercise. ~~More~~ Healthier lives. More fun.

\*Children might get confused about where they line up at the end of the recess. On the 1<sup>st</sup> day of school the teachers could clarify with the students that they line up at the small blacktop when 5 whistles blow and go in the door opposite.