

Situation: The Mayor of Newark New Jersey, Cory Booker, has been given \$100 million to invest in public education in his city in a very public way on the Oprah show by the CEO of Facebook as a response to the documentary, *Waiting for Superman*. Matching money for community building has come his way from Bill Gates, Walmart, Jon Bon Jovi and Brad Pitt. Check him Now, he needs to produce change. He has no real plan...yet.

This is where you come in. He has hired a team of young minds to help him develop his educational reform plan. He wants to directly respond to the claims/ ideas/ messages in *Waiting for Superman* to contextualize his message about his efforts.

Your task: Prepare a 7-10 page memo that analyzes the strengths and limitations of ONE of the key arguments/claims made for school reform in WFS. Include an analysis of any "holes" in this claim using research. Your memo should also contain your conclusions/recommendations and justifications for your position based on analysis of possible counterarguments, challenges to your position, or other possible courses of action.

Format:

Part 1: A summary of the claim within the context of the documentary, *Waiting for Superman*. How is this argument made within the movie? Conclude this section for why you believed a closer look at this claim is necessary.

Part 2: An analysis of how the popular press has educated the public on this issue. You should use Lexus Nexus and google searching as your resource base for this part of the memo. What is the general understanding or public conversation that is taking place about this issue? Remember the Mayor has the general public as his audience, so he will need to contextualize his plan within what the public believes or is concerned about.

Part 3: Educate the Mayor about this topic. Teach him using research briefs and summaries from credible professional and research organizations, including the US Department of Education, and analysis of research abstracts, from databases such as ERIC (Educational Resources in Circulation). Help the Mayor better understand this issue.

Part 4: Draw some conclusions or make recommendations for action. Here you need to convince the Mayor that a certain course of action is desirable. Or, perhaps, you need to convince him that a "popular" reform idea is not such a good one. Be sure to consider counter-arguments to your position. Argue that your choice is the best choice among other possible alternatives. Show him that your option is the best option on this issue.

Irene Ruiz Dacal 5/3/11 1:59 PM

Comment [1]: This section helps to set up the rhetorical situation and, thus, the requirements for the tone of the assignment.

Irene Ruiz Dacal 5/3/11 2:02 PM

Comment [2]: Because this refers to the specifics of the assignment, and these are addressed later in the assignment, this information could be moved to emphasize the requirements of the assignment.

Irene Ruiz Dacal 5/3/11 2:03 PM

Comment [3]: No due dates.

CWR 100
Research Project REVISED
Abt-Perkins

Situation: The Mayor of Newark New Jersey, Cory Booker, has been given \$100 million to invest in public education in his city in a very public way on the Oprah show by the CEO of Facebook as a response to the documentary, *Waiting for Superman*. Check Booker out on YouTube.

Now, he needs to produce change. He has no real plan...yet. This is where you come in. He has hired a team of young minds to help him develop his educational reform plan. He wants to directly respond to the claims/ ideas/ messages in *Waiting for Superman* to contextualize his plans for public education reform.

Your task: Prepare a 7-10 page report using APA format that analyzes the strengths and limitations of ONE of the key arguments/claims made for school reform in *Waiting for Superman*.

Format:

Part 1: A summary of the claim within the context of the documentary, *Waiting for Superman*. How is this argument made within the movie? Conclude this section for why you believe a closer look at this claim is necessary.

Due date: Draft, Thursday, February 24th. Final, Tuesday, March 1st

Part 2: An analysis of how the popular press has educated the public on this issue. You should use the library database, Lexis Nexis, and Google searching as your resource base for this part of the report. What is the general understanding or public conversation that is taking place about this issue? Remember the Mayor has the general public as his audience, so he will need to contextualize his plan within what the public believes or is concerned about.

Due Date: Draft, Due Thursday March 3rd. Final, Thursday, March 17th

Part 3: Educate the Mayor about this topic. Teach him using research briefs and summaries from credible professional and research organizations, including the US Department of Education, and analysis of research abstracts, from databases such as ERIC (Educational Resources in Circulation). Help the Mayor better understand the issue from the perspective of educational experts.

Due Date: Annotated bibliography, Thursday, March 24th. Final, Tuesday, March 29th

Part 4: Draw some conclusions or make recommendations for action. Here you need to convince the Mayor that a certain course of action is desirable. Or, perhaps, you need to convince him that a "popular" reform idea is not such a good one. Be sure to consider counter-arguments to your position. Argue that your choice is the best choice among other possible alternatives. Show him that your option is the best option on this issue. Due Date: Draft, Thursday, March 31st.

Irene Ruiz Dacal 5/3/11 2:04 PM

Comment [4]: Although a simple stylistic change, the bold titles help students to direct their attention to the sections of the assignment, thus facilitating their reading.

Irene Ruiz Dacal 5/3/11 2:05 PM

Comment [5]: Shorter assignment question helps students be clear about the purpose.

Irene Ruiz Dacal 5/3/11 2:05 PM

Comment [6]: Due dates included and underlined for emphasis.