

Essay #4: Little Tree Essay #2

TOPIC:

You are a member of the Sunnyville School Board preparing for a meeting over a controversial book that has been adopted for the high school's 10th grade English curriculum. The book's title is *The Education of Little Tree* by Forrest Carter. The issue of the meeting is whether this book should be banned from the 10th grade required reading list.

Those in favor of banning the book argue that the book is a total fraud and are shocked at the author's personal racist background. They feel it is inappropriate for their children to be reading material from such a dangerous individual. Those in favor of keeping the book on the reading list believe that despite the author's objectionable background the book has merit of its own which makes it worth reading. Also, they point out that banning the book would be an uncalled for act of censorship.

For the meeting, you are to prepare a persuasive essay in which you take a position on the issue of whether *The Education of Little Tree* should remain or be banned from the high school reading list. Your audience will be the assembled faculty of the high school. Be sure to defend your position with logical arguments and appropriate examples.

Note: Part of the "fun" of this essay is to enter into the fiction of this situation. We will not actually be having a meeting, but you will turn in your paper for class viewing and peer response.

Essays will be due: 5/6 MW or 5/7 TR

APPROACH:

Approach this essay just as we have approached the other essays we have just finished. You need to make a point and support it. As you develop your support for your position, remember to start with PRIMARY SUPPORTS, which will be REASONS. What is the first reason WHY you think the book should or should not be banned? As you seek to develop the needed secondary support, you will need to bring in at least two quotes from the text or from your research for each paragraph (remember you still need three secondary supports).

RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS:

In total, you will need to have three "secondary sources" (newspaper and magazine articles you found in your research) and one "primary source" (i.e. the novel). You will be expected to document your essay following the MLA Documentation Style.

USING QUOTATIONS FOR EVIDENCE:

Remember our "Sandwich Principle of Using Quotations for Evidence and Meaning."
<http://www.lirvin.net/WGuides/swichQuotes.htm>

ARGUMENTATIVE TECHNIQUES:

I will look for you to incorporate the two main argumentative techniques discussed in
<http://www.lirvin.net/WGuides/argue.htm>

1) Focus and Emphasis, and 2) Point/Counter Point

Development Support and Development Outline Handout:

Some of you may find it helpful to do a development outline as you work on your paper. Go
<http://www.lirvin.net/WGuides/devoutline.htm> to get another copy of this outline.