

Name: _____ Period: _____ Date: _____

CER REASONING PRACTICE

READ: Reasoning is often the most important part of writing to persuade someone. If you state your claim clearly and then give evidence to support it you are only part way there. Reasoning is telling your reader what is going on in your head. Why did you choose that evidence? Why should that evidence convince your reader that you are right about your claim? Here is an example of a claim and evidence where the reasoning is missing:

I believe that the United States should send money to help other people in the world. Today, millions of children are in school in Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Malawi and Zambia because money sent by other countries.

You might be able to guess where the writer is going with this argument, but it would be much stronger if the writer added a sentence or two of REASONING to explain. For example, the writer could add:

POOR REASONING: *That is why I think the U.S. should send money to help other people in the world.*

ADEQUATE REASONING: *School is good for you so we should send money so more kids can go.*

EXCELLENT REASONING: *If more children are able to go to school, then they will get better jobs and be able to support themselves and their families in the future. Without money from countries like the United States, these countries may continue to have a large number of people living in poverty and starving.*

The above reasoning explains the argument. By adding it, the writer makes sure that the reader fully understands what they are trying to say. Excellent reasoning explains **SPECIFICALLY WHY THE EVIDENCE PROVES YOUR CLAIM.** Reasoning requires you to really dig into why you feel your claim is true and explain the point you are trying to make. Remember, you are trying to convince someone that you are right!

Now you try!

For the following paragraph, underline all of the “reasoning” you can find.

Schools should continue using the traditional calendar and not a year-round schedule because there are many problems with year-round schooling. It has no positive effects on education and it adds to costs. Since 1980, 95 percent of schools that tried the year-round schedule changed back to a traditional calendar. When students go to school year-round, there is no evidence of higher test scores and the schedule ends up being difficult with so many breaks which is why most schools end up switching back. In addition, keeping school open year-round adds to costs. Keeping school open in the middle of summer requires air conditioning, more electricity and increases to teacher’s salaries. 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 as budgets are tight in many schools already. Schools that can handle these expenses could be doing better things with the money.

For the following CLAIM and EVIDENCE, write a sentence or two of REASONING that shows why this evidence proves the claim.

I believe that the United States is the best country in the world because it is the best place to live for fun.

Of the top ten amusement parks in the world, the United States is home to six of them. (ADD REASONING)

Also, the video game industry in the United States makes the most money of all the other countries. The United States made \$18.5 billion dollars in 2010 from video games. At number two, Japan made only \$6.25 billion. (ADD REASONING)
