

Part One: Reading (Score: 12)

The following text reveals the absence of tolerance in the American schools with little kids. When you are through with the reading, answer the questions that follow.

No Mercy, Kids!

1. On a chilly December morning in Houston, Eddie Evans' 12- year-old son hurried out the door in shirt sleeves on his way to the bus stop. Feeling the cold, he ducked back into his house to quickly grab a jacket. It wasn't until he'd gotten inside the school building that he remembered his three- inch pocketknife was still in that jacket.

2. After asking a friend what he should do, the boy decided to keep quiet and hide the knife in his locker until the end of the day. But his friend mentioned the knife to the teacher, and school officials called the police. That afternoon, cops came as fast as the wind to arrest the Evans child and took him to a juvenile detention center.

3. The boy was suspended from school for 45 days and enrolled in an alternative school for young offenders. Evans says the place was like a boot camp where his son was so miserable. This is yet another chapter in the ongoing madness that is America's "zero tolerance" craze. Schools nowadays are wildly overreacting to any behavior with a whiff of danger or controversy.

4. According to a report issued by the Justice Policy Institute in Washington, a 17-year-old guy shot a paper clip with a rubber band, missing his target but hitting a cafeteria worker instead. He was expelled. A 13- year-old was assigned in class to write a scary Halloween story. He concocted one that involved shooting up a school, which got him a visit from the police and six days in jail before the courts confirmed that no crime had been committed.

5. Cases like these might be one reason the American Psychological Association says zero tolerance policies are having harmful effects on kids. Kids actually feel less safe and have lower academic performance in schools. It also found that students under zero tolerance will be disruptive in the future.

6. The good news is that some parents have been fighting back. Eddie Evans, for instance, didn't let what happened to his son lie down. "Get involved in the political process," Evans now urges other parents, "because if you remain silent, the system will not change." His family had the courage and tenacity to say, "Enough!" Now, how about the rest of us?

A. Answer the following questions in complete sentences. (Score: 4.75)

1. "No Mercy, Kid" has been suggested as a title for the text. In your opinion, is it a suitable title? Justify your answer.
2. What was the main cause for arresting Eddie Evans' son?
3. What are three effects of Zero tolerance in the American schools?
4. What purpose does the text have? Explain.
5. What does the act of calling the police tell about the school administrations' viewpoint about that school system?

B. The following sentences are false because they misinterpret information stated in the reading text.

Rewrite each statement, correcting the error. (Score: 01)

1. Evans' son decided to take the knife in his jacket to school for a definite purpose.
2. Being sent to jail, students will turn out to be good members in the society.

C. Skim paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 to find words that have the following meanings. Change the part of speech where necessary. (Score: 02)

1. childish; relating to young people
2. cause someone to stop something for a period of time
3. register; arrange to join a school
4. dismiss; force someone to leave school

D. In the second paragraph, Evans says, "Cops came as fast as the wind to arrest the Evans child." (Score: 1.5)

1. What is the figurative language device used in the sentence above?
2. What function does it serve?

E. Restate the following sentences, beginning with the words given. (Score: 1.5)

1. Evans' son's friend mentioned the knife to a teacher.
The knife
2. The courts confirmed that no crime had been committed by a 13- year- old kid.
The courts confirmed that a 13-year-old kid

F. Find the five grammatical errors in the sentences below and correct them. (Score: 1.25)

1. The American school system changed since 1991.
2. The school administrations have looked for a way out for 2 years before they settle the problem down.
3. Nowadays parents are believing in the advantages of the new school system.
4. While the Minister of Education considered the problem, the school administrations was not even thinking about the issue.

II. Part Two: Writing (Score: 08)

Teachers and students usually face a state of conflict and misunderstanding with each other. Recall an incident in which a teacher or an administrator has been unfair and intolerant with you or another student you know. Write a well- organized essay to tell what happened exactly, how the incident affected those involved, and how it came to an end.

Complete the graphic organizer provided to help you get started with your work.

Title	
Setting	
Character(s)	
Plot	Conflict:..... Event 1: Event 2: Event 3: Event 4: Climax:

Your writing will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Graphic Organizer (2 pts.)
- Content (3 pts.)
- Organization, Language Structure, and Mechanics (3 pts.)