



**Social Studies Grade 6
Scoring Guide for
Released Item #22
Play Area for Small Children
Fall 2005**



INQUIRY AND DECISION MAKING

Directions: Read the following information about a public policy issue. Use it with what you already know to complete the tasks that follow. You should take about 20 minutes to complete both Task I and Task II.

PLAY AREA FOR SMALL CHILDREN ONLY

A new play area at one county park is for small children only. At the entrance to the new play area, there is a low gate with a barrier across the top. Only children small enough to walk under the barrier without bending or stooping may play in that area.

DATA SECTION

Part A

Students from kindergarten through fifth grade were asked two questions. The table below shows the percentage of students who answered "yes" to each question.

Grades

	K	1	2	3	4	5
Do you agree that the park should have an area for small children only?	95%	90%	80%	50%	35%	20%
Are you tall for your age?	10%	15%	15%	25%	35%	35%

DATA SECTION (continued)

Part B

The county government provided information about the five county parks. (Park #1 is the park with the new play area for small children only.)

	Park #1	Park #2	Park #3	Park #4	Park #5
Picnic tables	X	X	X		X
Campground		X		X	X
Play area for all ages	X		X	X	X
Play area for small children	X				
Fishing		X		X	
Place for boats or canoes		X		X	

Task II: Taking a Stand

You will now take a stand on the following public policy issue.

22 Should the county commissioners make special play areas only for small children in all county parks?

You may either support or oppose the proposal. Write a letter to the county commissioners. Use information from the Data Section to provide reasons that support your position.

You will be graded on the following criteria. Your letter must include:

- a clear and supported statement of your position;
- supporting information using a core democratic value of American constitutional democracy; and
- supporting information from the Data Section.

Remember to: Use complete sentences.
Explain your reasons in detail.
Explain how the core democratic value you use connects to your position.
Write or print neatly on the lines provided in your **Answer Folder**. No additional sheets may be used.

ANSWER THIS ITEM IN YOUR ANSWER FOLDER.

NOTHING WRITTEN IN THIS TEST BOOKLET WILL BE SCORED.

Holistic Feature Scoring of Civic Writing

- 3** In order to receive a 3-point score, the response must
1. Give a clearly stated position on the issue and support for that position
 - Students should use words such as support/oppose, for/against, agree/disagree, or should/should not
 - Do not accept those who do not take a stand, who say someone else (parents, school, or government) should decide the issue
 2. Provide at least one supporting point that is based on the core democratic values of American constitutional democracy
 - Do not accept if this support contradicts stated position
 3. Provide at least one piece of accurate, valid, and relevant supporting information from the Data Section
 - Do not accept if this support contradicts stated position
 - Data interpretations must be more right than wrong
- 2** In order to receive a 2-point score, the response must:
Give a clearly stated and supported position on the issue, and contain at least 1 of the remaining 2 elements
- 1** In order to receive a 1-point score, the response must give a clearly stated and supported position on the issue
- 0** In order to receive a 0-point score, the response will show no evidence of any of the elements.

NOTE: The supporting points used by students must be explained in enough detail to show a clear connection to the position taken.

Condition codes for unratable papers (zeroes):

A – Off Topic

B – Written in a Language other than English or Illegible

C – Blank or Refusal to Respond

Anchor Paper 1 – Score Point 3

65 Should the county commissioners make special play areas only for small children in all county parks?

Dear County Commissioners:

I think that they should make a play area for small kids only because there might not be any small equipment for small kids. Also if there is only stuff for old kids what are the small kids going to play on.

The core democratic value is equality. Equality means everyone should be treated equal and this is not equality because if there is only

stuff for big kids then small kids can't play and that is not equality.

I can relate this to economics because scarcity means there is not enough for everyone and there is not enough play equipment for small kids.

According to the data 95% of kindergardners think they should have a play area for little kids only and 95% is higher than these other grades. Also if most of the kindergardners think they should have a area for small children then they should.

Anchor Paper 1 Score Point 3

Position – Response provides clear position in favor of special area for small children because of the need for ...small equipment for small kids.

Core Democratic Value – Response offers Equality and elaborates. *Equality means everyone should be treated equal and this is not equality because if there is only stuff for big kids then small kids can't play...*

Data – Provides support from data ...95% of kindergardners think they should have a play area for little kids...if most...think they should have a area for small children then they should.

Anchor Paper 2 – Score Point 3

Dear County Commissioners:

I oppose to the idea of making special play areas for small children only in the parks. This would not be fair for the big kids! The big and little kids should all be able to share the park.

The Core Democratic Value is; The Pursuit of Happiness. The Pursuit of

Happiness means, everyone should be happy in their own way, as long as they don't step on the rights of others!! This would not be Pursuit of Happiness, because smaller kids might be happy, but this would not be fair the bigger kids, cause they wouldn't be allowed, this would make bigger kids MAD!!!

I can relate this to Economics. Our parents pay taxes. Taxes go to school's, road work ect) Paying for parks, also include taxes. So our parents/other adults would have to pay for something extra, the play area for small kids only. This would mean parents/adults would have to pay extra, this would make them mad!!!!

According to the data, Only 20% of 5th graders think this is a good idea, and 35% of the 4th graders think this is a good idea. This is a low %.

MOST of the bigger kids don't like the idea of having an area just for small kids!! This is why I oppose the idea of having an area just for small kids!!!!

Anchor Paper 2
Score Point 3

Position - Clear position opposing special play area as ...it would not be fair for big kids! The big and little kids should all be able to share the park.

Core Democratic Value – Response offers Pursuit of Happiness. ...everyone should be happy in their own way, as long as they don't step on the rights of others!! This would not be Happiness, because smaller kids might be happy, but would not be fair to bigger kids... Mention of fairness also draws on CDVs of Equality and Justice.

Data – In support of the negative position, cites data indicating that older kids oppose the separate park area. Only 20% of 5th graders think this is a good idea, and 35 % of the 4th graders think this is a good idea.

Anchor Paper 3 – Score Point 3

Dear County Commissioners:

I think there should not be special play areas just for small children. I think the Core Democratic Value for this is Equality. I think this because there would be no special place for older kids to play at and if they put special areas in for younger kids they would not be treated equally. The chart shows that older kids said no also. In the past people have not been

treated equally, and people have been discriminated. I think if they put play areas in just for small kids it would be discriminating the older kids.

Anchor Paper 3 Score Point 3

Position – Opposes special area for small kids. Reasoning is embedded in CDV: ...if they put play areas in just for small kids it would be discriminating the older kids.

Core Democratic Value – Response offers CDV of Equality. ...because there would be no special place for older kids...they would not be treated equally...(and) it would be discriminating the older kids.

Data – Response draws supporting information from data section. The chart shows that older kids said no also.

Anchor Paper 4 – Score Point 2

Dear County Commissioners:

#1 I think they should make special play areas only for small children in all country parks. because some children get hurt playing on big kids stuff. Big kids might knock them over and step on them. We might not see them and hit them with the ball hard on the head.

#2 The core democratic value is popular sovereignty - power of the people (vote). The little ones should be able to vote for a play area. And parents should be able to vote also so the little ones don't get hurt.

#3 I can relate this to economics because it cost money to make a play area so they could have fund raising and parents could tip in money.

#4 According to the data 95% say yes and that 95% are kindergarten is the little ones. Also grades 1, 2, and 3 have 90%, 80%, 50% as you see little kids want it more than bigs. And that's why I think we should.

Anchor Paper 4
Score Point 2

Position – Clear, supported position in favor of area for small kids ...*because* some children get hurt playing on big kids stuff.

Core Democratic Value – No credit. ...*popular sovereignty – power of the people (vote)*...is simply dropped in and is not linked to student's position.

Data – Data is used to show that small children want their own area. *According to the data 95 % say yes and that 95 % are kindergarner's.... Also grades 1, 2, and 3 have 90%, 80%, 50% as you see little kids want it more than bigs.*

Anchor Paper 5 – Score Point 2

Dear County Commissioners:

I think we should not have play areas for small children because young children might be big for their age. Also, taxes might be raised to pay for the extra play equipment.

The core democratic value is Equality. Equality means that everyone

is treated equal. This is not Equality because the bigger kids have less playground equipment to play on and the smaller kids have more.

I can relate this to economics. The economy will start to fail because someone has to pay for it.

According to the data, 135% of kindergarten gardeners to fifth grade said no. Also most parks are full of other stuff. This is why there should not be special play areas for small children only.

Anchor Paper 5
Score Point 2

Position – Clear statement of opposition. ...*should not have play areas...because young children might be big for their age.*

Core Democratic Value – Appropriate value of Equality is offered with comment that it is ...*not Equality because the bigger kids have less playground equipment to play on and the smaller kids have more.*

Data – No credit. Incorrect use of data. Student simply added across the row with the percentages of kids who are too tall for their age (135%) and transformed this into the percentage opposed to a special area. ...*135% of kindergardners to fifth grade said no.*

Anchor Paper 6 – Score Point 2

Dear County Commissioners:

Yes, because these big kids be pushing these little kid down and not leting the swin. IF little kid had they park they would not be pushed and they will have a swing. That is why 95% of the Kinergarten said yes because they are the ones who need there own park. I know because they did it to me and for body's to walk. Liberty mean Freedom they should have the Freedom to have a park where they don't get pushed down.

Anchor Paper 6 Score Point 2

Position – Clear affirmative position with immediate support. *Yes, because these big kids be pushing these little kid down and not letting the swin (them swing).*

Core Democratic Value – No credit. *Liberty mean Freedom they should have the Freedom to have a park where they don't get pushed down.* The concept of Liberty (Freedom) does not entitle a child access to a safe play area in a park.

Data – Supports the need for a separate, safe area for small children with data indicating children themselves feel such a need. *That is why 95% of the kinergarten said yes because they are the ones who need there own park.*

Anchor Paper 7 – Score Point 1

Dear County Commissioners:

Yes, you should make special play areas for the small children. Because, what if a little kid play on a big kids toys a fall down a get hurt. The Rule of Law, it is not a Law for the small children couldn't have there own play area. Could they just try it. Pursuit of Happiness means to try to do some that make you happy.

What if a little child break there leg on the big kids play area. The Commissioners will have to pay for his medication bill.

Anchor Paper 7 Score Point 1

Position – Clear yes with support. Yes.... Because, what if a little kid play on a big kids toys a fall down a get hurt.

Core Democratic Value – No credit. Mention of Pursuit of Happiness is not elaborated. Simply stating it ...means try to do some that make you happy... is not sufficient.

Data – No credit. No attempt is made to draw from the data section.

Anchor Paper 8 – Score Point 1

Dear County Commissioners:

Yes because they might get hurt with big kids the big kids might try to make fun of the little kids. Common good supports my writing because big kids shouldn't make fun of little kids. Little kids should not be bullied by big kids. They should buy more stuff for the little so

can play with them watch them have fun.

95% of children think they should have playground by there self.

Sincerely,

Anchor Paper 8
Score Point 1

Position – Affirmative position with support. Yes because they might get hurt with the big kids...

Core Democratic Value – No credit. The CDV Common Good is offered but is not sufficiently developed. It is not meaningfully linked to the position.

Data – No Credit. Data citation that ...95% of children think they should have playground by there self... is incorrect. It is not 95% of all children but rather 95% of kindergarten children.

Anchor Paper 9 – Score Point 1

Dear County Commissioners:

I think that we should have a County Park for kids. Under age 10. Here are some reasons why. 1. The mother and father might lose their kids in the Big Kid area. 2. Some of the big kids don't like the little children being around when they are playing basketball.

The core democratic value is common

Good citizens should work together for the good of all people. My last reason is that the parents might not want their children on the big kid equipment.

I can relate this to economic word opportunity cost, you must give something up to get something.

According to the data 95% of the kindergarten say that they should have a kiddie playground and

20% of the big kids say no that they should not have the kiddie playground, cause they want to get away from the little kids.

Anchor Paper 9
Score Point 1

Position – Affirmative position with support. *1. The Mother and father might lose there kids. 2. Some of the big kids don't like the little children...*

Core Democratic Value – No credit. The CDV Common Good is offered with additional comment that *...citizens should work together for the good of all....* However, it does not include the required idea of trade-offs or of some group sacrificing for the common good.

Data – No credit. The response takes two figures from the data section – one is correct but the other is incorrect. For credit a preponderance of the data must be correct. Correct: *...95% of the kindergarden say that thay should have a kiddey playground...* Incorrect: *...20% percent of the bigger kids say no that thay should not have the kids playground.*

Anchor Paper 10 – Score Point 0

Dear County Commissioners:

Yes county commissioners you should.
But you should just build more
activities for the kids. More slides
more swings. There also should
be 10 and under playing with
the little kids. The kids should have
there own side and the big kids
should have there own side

**Anchor Paper 10
Score Point 0**

Position – No credit. Position and support are inconsistent. While the position is affirmative, the support is general (all kids should have more equipment) or unclear (...10 and under playing with the little kids...)

Core Democratic Value – No credit. There is no mention of CDVs.

Data – No credit. No attempt is made to draw from the data section.

Anchor Paper 11 – Score Point 0

65 Should the county commissioners make special play areas only for small children in all county parks?

Dear County Commissioners:

I think we should have a little kids playground because younger children would be safer to play on playgrounds too. For example, if older children were playing basketball the children we get hurt, or stepped on because older children would not be watching were their going.

The Core Democratic Value is Pursuit of Happiness. Pursuit of Happiness means everyone should be happy as long as they don't step on the rights of others.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

I can relate this to Economics because younger children want to play in the parks too. This is an example of Scarcity, because if younger children go on the playground with older children then they would get hurt, or pushed around by them. Tax dollars should be for all children in the parks.

According to the data, 95% of the kindergarten, 90% of the first grade, and 80% of the second grade believe that there should be a small area for little children. However, 50% of the third grade, 65% of the fourth grade, and 80% of the fifth grade say that there shouldn't be a little children area. Because so many of the older children oppose having play areas for little kids, I don't think it is fair.

Anchor Paper 11
Score Point 0

Position – No credit. The student changes positions. *I think we should have a little kids playground...Because so many of the older children oppose having the play areas for little kids, I don't think it is fair.*

Core Democratic Value – No credit. Student offered two contradictory positions in Position and Data. (Also provides explanation of Pursuit of Happiness but does not link it to any position. *Pursuit of Happiness means everyone should be happy as long as they don't step on the rights of others.*)

Data – No credit. Contradicts original position supporting a special play area. *Because so many of the older children oppose...I don't think it is fair.*

Anchor Paper 12 – Score Point 0

Dear County Commissioners:

I think there should have a only small
children section

Anchor Paper 12 Score Point 0

Position – No credit. Position stated but no support.

Core Democratic Value – No credit. No CDV offered.

Data – No credit. No data is offered.