

North Carolina Association for Scholastic Activities  
**The Quill**

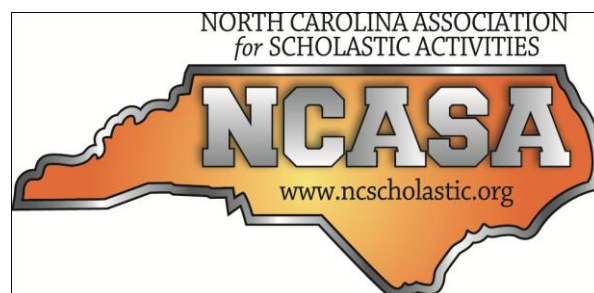
**Literary Analysis**

M. Esther Harding, an American Jungian analyst, is attributed with saying, “Conflict is the beginning of consciousness.” In addition, William Ellery Channing, a Transcendentalist poet, said, “Difficulties are meant to rouse, not discourage. The human spirit is to grow strong by conflict.”

Select a novel, play, or epic in which a character experiences such a development through conflict. How does the character develop a “beginning of consciousness” or “grow strong by conflict”? Then write an essay in which you analyze how the character’s experience through the conflict illuminates the meaning of the work as a whole. Do not simply summarize the plot.

Consider paying attention to the following guidelines:

- Choose words that are well-suited to the purpose, audience, and context of your essay.
- Organize your essay so that your ideas progress logically.
- Include relevant details that clearly develop your essay.
- Edit your essay for standard grammar and language usage.



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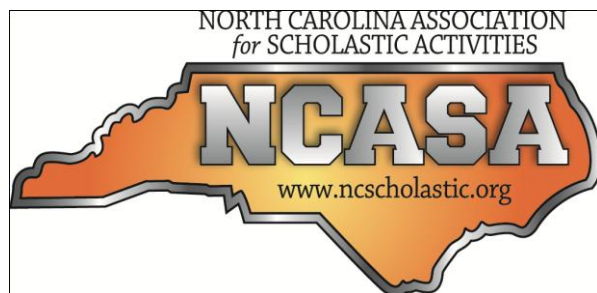
**Argumentation**

According to author Azar Nafisi, “The totalitarian mindset doesn't see the world in colors; it sees it all in one color, which is the color of its own mind. And individuality comes in many different colors and many different voices, and so when you live under the rule of the blind censor, you have to accept the censor's black and white universe.”

Censorship is an issue relevant around the globe today with the ready availability of information on the internet. Should all information be available to all people all the time? Determine whether to argue for or against the use of censorship as a governmental practice. Then write an essay in which you analyze the relevant points as they relate to your argument.

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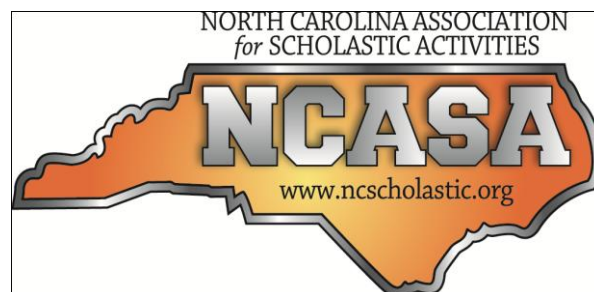
**Problem-Solution**

"Not long ago you could drop out of high school and reasonably expect to find a blue-collar job that would pay the bills and help support your family. That's just not the case anymore," President Barack Obama said on March 1, 2010 at The America's Promise Alliance Education event at the US Chamber of Commerce. "Graduating from high school is an economic imperative."

The high school dropout rate continues to be an area of major concern for American education. Consider the implications of the problem of the high school dropout rate. Then write letter to the superintendent ("Mr. Smith") in which you analyze the problem itself as well as offer potential solution(s).

Consider paying attention to the following guidelines:

- Choose words that are well-suited to the purpose, audience, and context of your letter.
- Organize your letter so that your ideas progress logically.
- Include relevant details that clearly develop your letter.
- Edit your letter for standard grammar and language usage.
- Use "Riley Smith" and "Central High School" in place of your real name and school.



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**Creative Writing**



What is the story behind the above photograph? What emotions does the photograph evoke? Consider all aspects of the photograph as you formulate your response. Choose an appropriate format for your creative product: a short story, a poem, a letter, or another format.

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- Choose words that are well-suited to the purpose, audience, and context of your product.
- Organize your product so that your ideas progress logically.
- Include relevant details that clearly develop your product.
- Edit your product for standard grammar and language usage.

