

Examples of essay writing

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Topic: suppose that the question is about test scores and methods for teaching reading. The hypothetical readings are two articles that suggest different approaches to narrowing the gap in test schools between rich and poor students.

Example 1:

Reading is omnipresent in our culture and those who do not achieve a high level of literacy have a myriad of difficulties in work and society. There are many problems with teaching the children to read. Many studies have proposed different solutions and Foster and McWhorter discuss this issue in their articles. Foster advocates accountability and adherence to standards and McWhorter is in favor of direct instruction method. Both of these methods have their pluses and minuses, and each author gives a different opinion.

Example 2:

Reading scores for children from poorer schools continue to lag behind those of wealthier children, despite twenty years of research on methods for teaching literacy. In this essay I will discuss papers by Susan Foster and John McWhorter in which they suggest reasons for continuing test score gap and propose ways of addressing this problem. Foster locates the problem in the failure of teachers to recognize and make use of the narrative styles of urban communities, while McWhorter targets the lack of explicit instruction in the skills needed for literacy. Although the problems that they identify and the proposals that they make are different, I will argue that they are not contradictory.