

Point-Counterpoint Essay

Issue: Nationwide, schools are struggling to secure sufficient funding necessary to meet the increasing needs of today's students. In an economic environment where there is fierce competition between education and other community needs and services for limited available tax dollars, many schools are scrambling for needed funds and are increasingly turning to the private sphere as a source of sorely needed funds.

Pre-assignment:

Read "How Corporations Are Buying Their Way Into America's Classrooms" (Website.)

*Search for other academic, peer-reviewed articles (2-3) that discuss the funding crisis of public education in the U.S. (I recommend using "Academic Search Complete", which is available on the library's homepage.)

Paper: Write a 2-3 page essay discussing the growing trend of education-corporate partnerships. Discuss the driving factors fueling this trend (i.e., what variables explain this shift?). In a "point-counterpoint" format describe the positive implications and outcomes of these partnership compared and contrasted with the negative implications and outcomes. Provide a sociological analysis of any visible outcomes in terms of social inequalities that are triggered by this trend. (I.E., is this trend more or less prevalent in poor school districts or minority districts? Does it affect certain classes more than others?) This assignment is short, so you will need to use concise, to-the-point sentences in order to do produce a quality essay.

Core Concepts: school funding, schools and social inequality, functions of schools.