

Scenario for Reformation

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Imagine that you are a student in the school that is described below. As someone who wants to become educated, you feel that there are things that should be "reformed" in the running of this school.

You decide to write a set of six "theses," or statements, that point out the faults and defects of the school and state clearly how you believe things should be changed.

You plan to post your six theses on the vice-principal's door, and you also plan to publish them for circulation to other students and teachers. These statements must be based on educational principles and not solely on personal tastes.

- ◆ In this school, following the rules is more important than learning.
- ◆ All decisions in this school are made by the principal alone. Since the principal never makes any errors, no one may question any decisions he makes.
- ◆ The principal determines what all staff and students should study, and what they should believe, because he has special knowledge about what is correct.
- ◆ Students or staff who are heard expressing a point of view different from what the principal directs will be expelled from the school and will be forbidden to have contact with other school members.
- ◆ Students who want to obtain a passing mark on exams need to pay a fee of \$100 to the principal or vice-principal.
- ◆ Students who have disobeyed a school rule must serve a period of punishment determined by the principal. If they pay a fee of \$200, the principal may decide to shorten the time of the punishment.

- ◆ All fines collected by the school will be used to build a more beautiful office for the principal, and a more elegant staff room for the vice-principal, head teacher, and department heads.
- ◆ All reading materials of students and teachers must be titles included on the Approved Reading List published by the principal.
- ◆ Any students or staff caught reading non-approved materials will be expelled from the school and forbidden to have any future contact with school members.
- ◆ All opinions on right and wrong, and interpretations of reading materials, will be decided for students by the teachers, as approved by the principal.
- ◆ In this school, only the final exam marks count. However, you may ask the principal to change your exam mark to an A if you can prove that you always followed all school rules and if you pay all the required fees.
- ◆ Students are not allowed to learn or read on their own, but only with the help of a teacher (not an older student or parent), and only a teacher who has been approved by the principal.
- ◆ Teachers who express opinions that do not agree with the principal's will be fired. If they teach these opinions to the students, they may face court charges.

