



Persuasive Essay

Most parents wouldn't let their 2-year-old child play with matches, or their 5-year-old drive the car, but in the case of Abby Sunderland's parents, that unspoken rule is completely ignored. Abby's parents let her sail a boat all the way around the world, all alone, and she was only 16. She definitely should not have gone, and her parents should not have let her go. Firstly, she was much too young to do that kind of thing on her own. There was also a very high chance of something going dangerously wrong, and that actually did happen. Also, her parents might have made her do it for the money and the fame, or that could have been her motive without her parents involvement.

It was foolish for Abby to go, because, even though she was sixteen, that is still too young to sail around the world, all alone. Abby was barely able to drive, but when she sailed around the world, even though she didn't finish, she got a lot of fame. "Abby Sunderland couldn't drive without a learner's permit, but her journey on the high seas got her fawning press and endorsement deals." Abby still has a long life to live. There is a possibility that she could sink her boat, and die. "...his 16-year old daughter..." Parents shouldn't let children at that age do these life-threatening things. For example with Jessica Dubroff, the 7-year-old who died trying to fly solo around the country. "...Jessica Dubroff,

the 7-year-old who died in 1996, trying to pilot a plane across the country.” Parents shouldn’t let their children do such dangerous things until later in life.

When you are sailing around the world, all alone, there is a high chance of something going wrong. Firstly, she could get caught in a storm, and get stranded somewhere. This is actually what happened to her. “A massive storm in the Indian Ocean knocked out her mast...” She could also get hit by a huge rogue wave. “...surrounded by 25-foot waves...” This would be very similar to what happened in the story, “Rogue Wave”. She may lose some food or water somehow, and not have enough to finish the journey. “...last summer, a court in the Netherlands stopped a 13-year-old girl from making her own unadvised solo sail.” They might have stopped her from doing that because they knew how much danger is involved with sailing solo around the world.

Abby’s parents might have even made her do it, against her will or with her encouragement, to get money and fame. There are multiple families that have done something that had their child doing something very dangerous. “We probably haven’t heard the last of the Heenes of Colorado, who at least had the sense not to actually put their child inside the Mylar balloon.” There are even more than just Heenes of Colorado, and the Sunderlands. The Sunderland family is trying to make a sitcom about themselves.” Her father also disclosed that he’s been shopping a reality show with the working title Adventures in Sunderland. The Sunderland family is trying to make a sitcom about themselves.” Her father also disclosed that he’s been shopping a reality show with the working title Adventures in Sunderland. ” This proves that they are trying to make money out of their daughter’s disaster. Abby is also going to be writing a book.” Abby has

declared, quell surprise, that she's writing a book. " This just proves how much that they want money.

Others say that she was a role model for sailing around the world, and that she is inspiring everybody. It was foolish for her to go because it was putting her life in danger, just to try and set a record. "So this is the definition of bravery now? Embarking on unnecessary risk that jeopardizes the lives of rescue workers?" That is what she did when she tried to sail around the world. The majority of the people on Abby's side are family and friends. "' I think that it's a parent's job to realize their kids' dreams,' Abby Sunderland's father told the *Los Angeles Times* last winter." That is true, but there is a line between realizing your kid's dream, and letting your child do something that dangerous.

It was very foolish for Abby Sunderland to go, and also foolish of her parents to let her go. Abby Sunderland was too young, and still has a life to live! It was also very dangerous for her to be all alone in the middle of the ocean for that long a period of time, nonstop. Abby's parents might have made her do it for the money and fame. Also, you just shouldn't let any child do something that dangerous. We all need to work together to pass a law that says that you cannot sail a certain distance, nonstop and alone, until you are at least around 21 years old.

Rationale for Abby Sunderland's sailing adventure argument prompt: 7th grade, 1st semester

This essay received a 4 on the district rubric. Students read various articles about Abby Sunderland's attempt to become the youngest person to sail solo around the world. This writer was able to formulate a convincing argument based on evidence that Sunderland's was too young to partake in such a high-risk activity. The writer has a clear hook and central idea before listing the three reasons that Sunderland should not have sailed by herself. The student's paragraphs align with the thesis and provide details from the literature to support his or her argument. Even though textual evidence is more or less thrown in haphazardly without introductory information to precede it, the evidence does fit the student's argument for the most part. The student is also able to suggest a counterclaim in the fifth paragraph and then successfully attack that claim. There are only minor errors in conventions, but these do not inhibit a full understanding of the student's position.

Common Core All-Subject Writing Rubric

Writing Type(circle one):	Argumentative	Informative/Explanatory	Narrative (ELA only)		
CONTENT X4	The writing has a sharp focus and clarity of purpose. The ideas are developed with examples and specific details including textual evidence and are thoroughly elaborated. All elements of the prompt are addressed.	The writing has a clear central idea and a clear focus. Ideas are developed with textual evidence, even though the development may be uneven. Information is relevant. Most elements of the prompt are addressed.	The writing has a vague central idea; there are shifts in focus or digressions. Ideas are listed, information may be incomplete or irrelevant, textual evidence may be lacking, and there is little development. Some elements of the prompt are <u>not</u> addressed.	The writing has unclear or confusing ideas. The ideas are missing relevant information, there is not enough information, or there is little or no development, and little textual evidence. Significant elements of the prompt are <u>not</u> addressed.	X4
ORGANIZATION	There is a beginning, middle, and end in the writing with strong transitions between ideas. Ideas are presented in a logical order and there is a sense of completion about the writing.	There is a beginning, middle, and end in the writing with simple transitions between ideas. Ideas are presented in a logical order and the writing may have a weak ending.	There is a weak beginning, middle, and end with gaps in ideas. Ideas are presented in random order, there may be significant repetition, and the writing may have no ending.	There is no beginning or end with severe gaps in ideas. Ideas are presented in a random or repetitive order. There may be too little information to demonstrate organization.	
SPELLING & GRAMMAR (Conventions)	The writing exhibits superior control over grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. If there are errors present, they do not appear to be part of a pattern of errors.	The writing exhibits proper control over grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. If there are errors present, they do not appear to be a part of a pattern of errors.	The writing exhibits weak control over grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. The errors minimally affect the meaning of the writing.	The writing exhibits little to no control over grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. The errors greatly affect the meaning of the writing.	
Teacher Feedback:			{(Student Reflection on Back)}		Total Points Earned
					Score
					4