



- Put your name here: _____ And also on the back. (5 pts)
- Highlight or underline important information (5 pts)
- Annotate by making comments in the margins, minimum of 5 (5pts)
- Define your vocabulary words in the designated vocabulary space by googling them or looking them up on the website (10 pts)
- Goes into effect AOW 2:** List the kind of organizational pattern this article uses and why by filling in the template below:
This article uses _____ because _____. (10 pts)
- Give a persuasive response to the WRITE statement at the bottom of the page by writing an essay on the back. Make sure to choose only ONE side of the argument in your writing. We NEVER write about both sides. (up to 30 pts)
- Goes into effect AOW 3:** DO NOT USE "I" or "you" when writing your response. Form opinions WITHOUT IT. (5 pts)
- Make sure that your essay uses PARAGRAPHS. This means, 1. Indent 2. No skipping lines between paragraphs 3. A paragraph is MORE than just one sentence 4. Minimum of 4 paragraphs. (10 pts)
- Include a thesis with points A and B. Be sure to include two persuasive examples in body paragraphs, one in body paragraph 1 and another in body paragraph 2 (10 pts)
- Check off the boxes to the left of these directions as you complete them. (10 pts---lies get 0 points)

Holding parents accountable: Grades? Fines? Jail?

By Catherine Durkin Robinson

Legislators, groups, and school officials across the country are trying to change *No Child Left Behind* and make the law, along with our schools and education in general, much better. They stress the importance of teachers, administrators, and community leaders, and bemoan our students' lack of knowledge when compared to the rest of the world. Why don't they mention parents in this equation? Despite this example, there is a growing movement to hold parents accountable. Bills introduced in Florida a few months ago call on school administrators to grade parents for their involvement, or lack thereof, and in Indiana there was a call to require parental participation in a child's education for a certain amount of hours each semester. In a last-ditch effort to curb out-of-control truancy levels, many states have decided that punishing the parents of chronically absent kids is an appropriate response. In Maryland, some parents have been jailed for failing to bring their kids to school. Parents in Alaska can be fined up to \$500 for every five unexcused absences, and California passed a law allowing them to prosecute, fine, and jail parents in similar situations. Some experts argue that these policies alone won't work. Of course, simply incarcerating incompetent moms and dads won't bring all truant children back to school full-time. A failing grade alone won't encourage every set of parents to behave better and start taking their responsibilities seriously.

Showing appreciation and support is the least we can do for people who make our world better, and society safer. How can we bring this about? School districts can distribute report cards showing a student's attendance record, academic performance, conduct, and parental involvement. That's the first step. A more thorough report card would be the necessary proof a parent needs to take part in business and government programs designed to congratulate them. This would mean a bit more work for educators, to ensure accurate transcripts. However, if administrators could be assured of public support and that such nominal work would guarantee better partnership with parents, bringing about higher grades and better schools, they'd be more likely to support it. Disincentives have their place, too, and criminalizing all ineffective parents isn't necessarily the answer. Perhaps we should consider mandatory parenting classes, less substantial child tax credits, and community service hours for those whose children commit crimes or drop out of school due to behavior and/or academic problems. Researchers at the Prevention Research Center in Arizona studied the long-term effectiveness of parenting programs and found considerable evidence that such interventions positively impact children's health and development demonstrated from one to 20 years after the program was delivered. Why aren't we encouraging more of this?

Americans are tired of underperforming schools and recognize we cannot continue to blame teachers. Overworked and underpaid educators only see these children for a short amount of time each day and cannot possibly undo years of neglect, abuse, or denial in their toughest pupils. Administrators and students alike need real help from moms and dads. And in every study conducted on violent and criminal youth, there exists some evidence suggesting a troubled home life plays a part. We continue to ignore the importance of effective parenting at our peril. National Coalition for Accountable Parenting, a new advocacy group formed to encourage effective parenting and empower the public to hold parents accountable, is helping to bring this important issue to center stage where it belongs. Working with progressive groups in every community to raise awareness and support effective parenting is the best way to influence this trend toward holding moms and dads accountable. NCAP is lobbying school districts to add more information to K-12 report cards, which can then be used to reward everyday heroes who are raising good kids. Parents are the most powerful force on earth. Our laws and policies must take a step toward recognizing that.

Define vocabulary here:

- Incorporated: _____
- Detach/Detachable: _____
- Bean: _____
- Sulk: _____
- Embody: _____

WRITE an essay stating your position on whether or not parents should be held responsible for their children's behavior.

