

Background Information

Letter to the Editor—Sample Analysis

Elements of worldview	Conclusions about worldview	Evidence to support conclusions
View of human nature	some human beings are naturally evil, i.e., young people; others are good, i.e., older people	negative qualities of young people highlighted: hanging around malls; smoking and getting in people's way; shoplifting; reckless and irresponsible actions; purse snatchers and pickpockets
View of the good life	people should work hard and strive for accomplishments	implies young people should be working hard to make society better
Equality with others	adults and people in authority deserve special treatment	concern for the welfare of older people, shopkeepers, police
Responsibilities to others	people should all pay their own way in the world and in this way they contribute to society	doesn't want to pay health and education taxes that support young people who are not contributing
Relationship between the individual and the state	support for the protection of society	young people should not be allowed to enjoy rights of association if their enjoyment of these rights interferes with the rights of others, such as shopkeepers and adults
Relationship of humans with nature	not clearly articulated	no specific evidence
Source of ethical wisdom	not clearly articulated	no specific evidence