

What are the Worst Problems Facing American High Schools Today?

I) Introduction. Thesis Statement: _____ American high schools are facing problems today in four areas _____

II) Body

1. vandalism is increasing _____
 - A. cost \$200 million in 1990 _____
 - B. Chicago school - one window/2 typewriters per week _____
2. Schools are under a lot of financial pressure - never enough funds
 - A. Schools in Cleveland - closed for 3 months _____
 - B. Traditional financing methods are breaking down _____
 - i. voters are rejecting tax increases _____
 - ii. parents have less time to raise money for their children's schools _____
3. Teachers are also creating problems _____
 - A. Many teachers today are poorly qualified _____
 - i. low scores on certification exams _____
 - ii. teachers are hired before they've finished their education _____
 - B. In addition, teachers don't feel valued, so they're turning against the school systems
 - i. many strikes _____
4. Finally, students aren't learning anything _____
 - A. entering freshmen are at 6th grade level _____
 - B. SAT scores have gone down _____
 - i. Math scores _____
 - ii. verbal scores _____

III) Conclusion

- A. Summarize the four points above.
- B. General comments:
 - i. All this leads to a poor education for our youth.
 - ii. It is time for each one of us to consider what we can do to address the problems discussed above.