

46. Many believe that in democratic societies a free education is each citizen's right. Others see education as a privilege, one that must be earned. In the United States, should education be considered a right or a privilege? Take a position on this question. Support your response with reasons and specific examples.

Restate Prompt: Is education in the US a right or a privilege?

Thesis Statement: Without question, the democratic society in the United States provides a free education to all citizens as a basic human right; however, a large majority of people take it for granted and devalue its worth.

### Education is a Right

- Public education is offered freely to all - right to all
- Schools have to provide services to all who enter regardless of gender, race, religion, wealth, intelligence, background, etc...
- \* This right is taken for granted by most - not earned, no cost
- \* People do not value what they don't invest in.
- \* Education is a mandate - a requirement - for those younger than 16. A "forced" right seems wrong.

### Education is a Privilege

- Education is a privilege that should be earned to increase its value.
- If schools had applications and qualifying criteria for admission, <sup>of students and teachers</sup> the quality would be better,
- there would be fewer distractions
- and there would be level of learning would be greater.
- ↑ College level \* (Best example)
- not all people benefit from a public education - would excel more if put into work force or trade at a young age