

Writing Exercise #4
Standing Ground, The Book

Read the following excerpt from *Standing Ground*

Students had different opinions about Juarez Middle School. For some, it was a place to learn. For others, it was just a place to be. See friends. Get away from home. Get a free meal. Kids heard teachers talking all the time about them being “at-risk students.” They didn’t really understand what this meant, but the students knew they were mostly at risk of failing classes or just being plain misunderstood. Juarez wasn’t a bad school. It just didn’t help all the kids in the way that some of them needed help.

Although schools exist to help students learn to become productive members of society and good citizens, not every school helps each student with their specific needs.

Write an essay explaining whether people should be concerned with schools and the education of youth in general. Please limit the essay to the page provided.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your thesis
- organize and develop your ideas effectively
- choose your words carefully
- edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling