



CUNYASSESSMENT TEST IN WRITING (CATW) Practice 12

Read the passage below and write an essay responding to the ideas it presents. In your essay, be sure to summarize the passage in your own words, stating the author's most important ideas. Develop your essay by identifying one idea in the passage that you feel is especially significant, and explain its significance. Support your claims with evidence or examples drawn from what you have read, learned in school, and/or personally experienced.

No Kids Allowed

At McDain's Restaurant, in Pennsylvania, there is no special menu for kids. In fact, as of last July, kids don't get to eat there at all. Mike Vuick, the owner of the restaurant, announced a ban on children under six years of age at his casual dining establishment.

After receiving noise complaints from customers about crying kids at neighboring tables, Vuick decided to institute the policy this past summer. In an email to customers, Vuick explained: "We feel that McDain's is not a place for young children. Many, many times, they have disturbed other customers."

The owner of the elegant, quiet restaurant explains that he's got nothing against kids in general, but their endless screams at public dinner tables are "the height of being impolite and selfish."

Last year, the Old Salty Restaurant in North Carolina made a similar decision. Owner Brenda Armes posted a sign that read "Screaming children will not be tolerated," making it clear to parents that when their kids scream, they'll be asked to take them outside. Armes said the move has increased business, and Vuick is confident his ban will benefit McDain's as well.

But not everyone agrees. Some people are offended that they're being singled out for having young kids, and ask why nothing is being done about noisy adults. "If they're so concerned about noise, what do they plan to do about the loud people at the bar?" asks one parent.

While some people may find these policies discriminatory to families with children, it is not illegal to make such rules. Dining out should be a relaxing experience, especially in upscale restaurants. Many people cannot control their children, so restaurant owners have no choice but to ban children below a certain age.

Adapted from "Restaurant Bans Kids" by Piper Weiss in *Shine* from *Yahoo*, Winter 2011.