

General Comments:

It only took me 8 minutes for my initial review and proofread, and another 12 minutes to go deeper and think about some things, so 20 minutes, plus however long it take me to put these comments on the page and send it off in two files to you (30 minutes). I wanted to send you two copies, one with "track changes," and one after I've accepted changes to show you the final copy. Unfortunately, I didn't save the "track changes" manuscript correctly (in too much of a hurry), so I lost it and only have this "final" copy to send you. I don't want to spend over an hour on it, so I didn't do a final read-through. Please do it. I'll try to do it tonight too, so we can catch any errors I might have made in typing or editing.

It's a really good article. It's succinct and holds one's interest and has excellent support at the beginning from a diverse group of well-respected thinkers. Here are my thoughts about how to give it even more impact, but if you don't have time, you can send it off just as it is (with my edits, almost entirely for punctuation). It's very good.

- Mentioning Art Linkletter makes the piece seem dated, esp. right up front. Is there anyone else you can pair with Bill Cosby (who also isn't exactly up to the minute)? Is there a comic strip? I don't suppose *Rugrats* would work, especially since only kids watch it anyway.
- The weakest part for the EL (*Educational Leadership* I assume) is the ending because it makes the piece seem, all of a sudden, geared toward parents. What is a teacher supposed to do to deal with the *time* issue? She is already devoting all she has to her students, but the *listening* and *accepting of alternative ideas*, the realization that kids *do* have important things to say—that is a message for teachers to hear—something they can do something about. So, if this is directed toward teachers, I wouldn't end with TIME because it may cause them to lose your message if they think, "My god, I'm already devoting too much time to my students and too little to my family."
- Just a reminder: Don't overuse dashes and ellipses. It causes you to lose impact with the ones you keep, and one exclamation point is sufficient. I use them exclamation points less than you do, and my recent dramaturge on *Amici* said, "Boy, you sure like exclamation points."
- Close-up spaces between paragraphs. One extra space between paragraphs is okay; two seems too many. Alternatively, you could just present the entire article double-spaced.
- Great piece. It's a keeper!