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English 8
Period 2

High School Drop Outs

One of the many problems facing America today is the high school drop out rate. The United States has one of the highest drop out rates compared with other countries. Nearly 6.2 million students in the United States between the ages of 16 and 24 in 2007 dropped out of high school. It is a known fact that dropouts are substantially more likely to rely on public assistance than those with a high school diploma, and many are more likely to end up behind prison walls. In addition, dropouts cost our country billions in lost wages, lost taxes, and lost productivity. It was once said that every nine seconds in America, a student becomes a dropout. This is a tragedy. We must do something to put an end to what could potentially be the death of a generation. This is a problem we cannot afford to accept or ignore.

One of the first things we must do to stop the problem is to understand some of the causes of the problem. There are many reasons as to why students do not finish high school. I feel some of the reasons students drop out include teenage pregnancy, a more attractive life on the streets selling drugs, unsafe school environments, or sometimes maybe pure laziness. Others may drop out because they feel that no one cares and because they do not receive the help they need to be successful in school. Some even feel that once they get so far behind in their assignments, there is no hope of catching up and the grades continue to drop, with no signs of a turnaround.

