**Article of the Week — Week 1**

Directions: Read the article below carefully. As you read:

**Annotate** and make comments throughout using SPARTANS ANNOTATE

**S: Summarize, P: Predict, A: Ask Questions, R: Reflect and React (Opinion), T: Text Structure, A: Author’s Purpose, N: Note Connections**

Complete the **reflection sheet** attached.

**Chicago school draws scrutiny over student fines**

*Got gum? That'll cost you. Chicago school draws scrutiny over making kids pay for infractions*

1. CHICAGO -- A sense of order and **decorum** prevails at Noble Street College Prep as students move quickly through a hallway **adorned** with banners from dozens of colleges. Everyone wears a school polo shirt neatly tucked into khaki trousers. There's plenty of chatter but no **jostling**, no cellphones and no dawdling. The reason, administrators say, is that students have learned there is a price to pay – literally – for breaking even the smallest rules.
2. Noble Network of Charter Schools charges students at its 10 Chicago high schools $5 for detentions stemming from **infractions** that include chewing gum and having untied shoelaces. Last school year it collected almost $190,000 in discipline "fees" from detentions and behavior classes – a policy drawing fire from some parents, advocacy groups and education experts.
3. Officials at the rapidly expanding network, heralded by Mayor Rahm Emanuel as a model for the city, say the fees offset the cost of running the detention program and help keep small problems from becoming big ones. Critics say Noble is nickel-and-diming its mostly low-income students over insignificant, made-up infractions that force out kids administrators don't want.
4. "We think this just goes over the line ... fining someone for having their shoelaces untied or a button unbuttoned goes to harassment, not discipline," said Julie Woestehoff, executive director of the Chicago advocacy group Parents United for Responsible Education, which staged protests last week over the policy after Woestehoff said she was approached by an upset parent
5. Students at Noble schools receive **demerits** for various infractions – four for having a cellphone or one for untied shoelaces. Four demerits within a two-week period earn them a detention and $5 fine. Students who get 12 detentions in a year must attend a summer behavior class that costs $140.
6. Superintendent Michael Milkie said the policy teaches the kids – overwhelmingly poor, minority and often hoping to be the first in their families to attend college – to follow rules and produces in a structured learning environment. He points to the network's average ACT score of 20.3, which is higher than at the city's other non-selective public schools, and says more than 90 percent of Noble graduates enroll in college.
7. While fights can be an almost daily occurrence in some urban high schools, Milkie says there's only about one a year on each Noble campus. By "sweating the small stuff ... we don't have issues with the big stuff," he said.
8. Milkie said the fines also help **defray** the cost of administering after-school detention and the salary of the network's dean of discipline, which otherwise would divert money intended for education.
9. But Donna Moore said the district is manufacturing problems that lead to unproductive badgering of students, including her 16-year-old son, who had to repeat ninth grade at Noble's Gary Comer College Prep after racking up 33 detentions and several suspensions.
10. "It was nothing **egregious**, but just that the little things added up: a shirt unbuttoned, shoes not tied, not tracking the teacher with his eyes," said Moore, adding that her son has an attention disorder. "It's not normal to treat a young adult as a 2-year-old ... kids internalize that."
11. Woestehoff and Moore said some families have removed their children from Noble schools because they couldn't keep paying the fees, though Moore said her biggest complaint is the infractions. Milkie said Noble sets up payment plans and on rare occasions waives the fees, and students never would be held back a grade solely because they couldn't pay.
12. Even so, Matthew Mayer, a professor in the graduate school of education at Rutgers University, said a monetary fine is "highly inappropriate" because it likely has no bearing on students' academic performance and disproportionately hurts poor families. "It's almost medieval in nature. It's a form a financial torture, for lack of a better term," Mayer said.
13. Emanuel defended the school, saying it gets "incredible" results and parents don't have to send their children there. Charter schools are exempt from most district policies.
14. Parent Tammy O'Neal said her two daughters are excelling at Noble's Muchin College Prep, and only one ever got detention, for not wearing a belt. "If a kid is prone to getting in trouble and not taking school seriously, then the fines are a steep slope," she said. "But why don't you tell your kid to straighten up?"
15. Chadie Morris, 16, a sophomore at Noble Street College Prep, carries a 3.8 grade-point average at Noble Street College Prep, but figures she has paid $45 already this year for such things as talking in class.
16. "Sometimes it can be about the littlest things and you can still get demerits," she said. "Demerits are horrible; detentions are horrible."
17. But the aspiring lawyer, who struggled with absences until her adviser and principal persuaded her to come back, looks forward to attending a one-week summer college program. Every student in Urban Prep's first two graduating classes was accepted to a college or university.
18. At Knowledge is Power Program, a network of 109 charter schools in 20 states and the District of Columbia, middle school students are rewarded for good behavior with a weekly incentive "paycheck" – fake money that can be redeemed at the school store or used to defray the cost of field trip, spokesman Steve Mancini said. The system is phased out by high school because it's no longer needed.
19. Milkie, though, doesn't plan to change a thing. "It's a beautiful system," he said. "I don't want to brag, but it is. It's why the kids are so successful."

**Article of the Week (AOW)**

**Post-Reading Assignment: Use complete sentences!**

1. Write your initial reaction to the article. What is your opinion of the policies described in the article? (2-3 sentences) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. How does this article relate to the theme “Picking your Battles”? (3-4 sentences) Use a quote for text evidence and support.

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1. Choose 3 bolded words from the article to complete the following table:

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| Word from Article | Synonym | Antonym | Create an Analogy |
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