

Declaration of Alec Coleman

I, Alec Coleman, hereby declare:

1. I make this declaration based on my own personal knowledge and if called to testify I could and would do so competently as follows:

2. I am in the 11th grade at Crenshaw High School in Los Angeles, where I have gone to school for all my years of high school.

3. We do not have enough books for all the students at Crenshaw. For example, in my geometry class this year, we have about 10 or 15 more students in my class than we have books. We either have to share books in class or use photocopies of the books in class when the teacher brings in photocopies. It's a big deal not to have enough books in class for every student. I'd like to have my own book so I don't have to look in someone else's book. When I have to share books, I worry that the person I share with will think I'm looking at the person's paper for answers and I don't want to have to deal with that. I just want to be able to use my own book and learn at my own speed, without having to worry about what someone I'm sharing with is thinking. Obviously, we can't take the books home for homework in my geometry class because we don't have enough books. We also can't take books home for homework in my English class because we don't have enough books for all the students in that class in the school.


4. At the beginning of every year, some classes have as many as 40 to 45 students in them, and they stay that overcrowded until the school reorganizes student schedules. This year, my history and chemistry classes both had about 40 to 45 people in them until about halfway through the semester, when the classes finally went down to their current number of around 30 students. When the classes were that big, students had to stand because we didn't have enough seats for all the students in the classes.

5. The Crenshaw facilities need work. Ceiling tiles are missing in some classes, including my chemistry class, and in the hallways. Also, some lights are out on campus, and when the lights go out they stay out for a long time. I have seen ants and occasionally roaches in my classes and outside the school buildings this year. Also this year I have seen two or three mice outside the buildings. The bathrooms have excessive graffiti that stays up for a long time.

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6. The school is putting cameras up in the hallways now, to monitor the students. It feels like a prison with all those cameras. If they can provide new cameras for the school hallways, I don't see why the school can't provide us with books or qualified teachers for our classes.

I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California and the United States that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 31 day of May, 2001 in Los Angeles, California.


Alec Coleman