

1 **Declaration of Virginia Barajas**

2 I, Virginia Barajas, hereby declare:

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

5 2. I have just finished the eleventh grade at Locke High School in Los Angeles,
6 California. I will return to Locke in the fall for the twelfth grade. I have attended Locke High
7 school since the beginning of ninth grade.

8 3. We often do not have any books, and when we do have books, there often are not
9 enough for each student to have a book. In my eleventh grade discrete math class, during the
10 2000-2001 school year, we did not have any books. We had to try to learn from photocopies and
11 worksheets. In my tenth grade science class, in the 1999-2000 school year, there were not
12 enough books for all of the students. We had to leave the books in class, for the next periods to
13 use. We could not take them home. There were not even enough books for the students to use in
14 class. We had to share, with two students to each book, which made it really hard to do our
15 work. When you share a book with another person, you have to wait for the other person to
16 finish before you can turn the page to continue on with your own work. Because of this, it took a
17 long time to finish our work. If we didn't finish it, we couldn't take the books home, because we
18 had to leave them in class. So, we would have to finish the work the next day. Sometimes the
19 teacher made us just turn in the work as it was, even if we didn't finish. Then, we would get an
20 "incomplete" on the assignment, and we would get a lower grade in the class. This happened to
21 me once. I felt like my teacher did not understand how much longer it took to do our work
22 because we had to share books. In my tenth grade English class, we did not have books at all; all
23 we had were photocopies. We had to share them in class because there were not enough, and we
24 could not take them home, because the teacher had to use them in her other periods too. In my
25 ninth grade health class, in the 1998-1999 school year, we had no textbooks at all. The teacher
26 could not make photocopies either. He wrote notes on the board, and we had to copy them down.
27 Other times, we watched movies in class. We watched *Booty Call*, and *The Matrix* and a lot of
28 others. *The Matrix* really had nothing to do with what we were learning, and *Booty Call* was a

1 rated-R movie, and I feel it was inappropriate for school. In my ninth grade math class, we also
2 had no textbooks. Our teacher gave us photocopies to work on.

3 4. I have had classes where there was not a permanent teacher. In my eleventh grade
4 discrete math class, in the first semester of the 2000-2001 school year, the teacher we were
5 supposed to have did not show up. Instead of having a permanent substitute for our class, the
6 school had another teacher teach our class during his conference period. He was not usually a
7 discrete math teacher, so he was not prepared to teach it. So instead of teaching us about discrete
8 math, he taught us about the stock market all semester.

9 5. My classes are sometimes overcrowded. In the tenth grade, during the 1999-2000
10 school year, there were far too many students in my algebra II class. On the first day, there were
11 about sixty students. The counselors did not help fix the overcrowding problem. So, the teacher
12 started to kick students out to make the class smaller. Even after the teacher kicked some
13 students out, it was very crowded and there were not enough desks for everyone. People would
14 rush in to class to try to get a seat. Some people had to sit at the back at a round table. My friend
15 had to sit there, and she told me that she could not see the board at all. She would ask me for my
16 notes because she could not see the board to take down her own notes.

17 6. In the eleventh grade, during the 2000-2001 school year, I took a modern dance
18 class. But, they were repairing the gym for the whole first semester, so we couldn't use the dance
19 space to dance. Instead of learning modern dance, we just sat around for that whole semester.

20 7. In my eleventh grade chemistry class, in the 2000-2001 school year, we did not
21 have enough supplies to do chemistry labs. Our teacher brought some materials from home, but
22 there still was not enough. He told us that he couldn't teach us what he wanted to teach us,
23 because of the lack of lab supplies. I wish I could have done labs. I think it would have been
24 interesting, and I think I could have learned a lot.

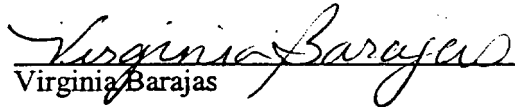
25 8. I have had classes in which we have been required to buy our own supplies. In my
26 eleventh grade A.P. English class, in the 2000-2001 school year, we had to buy our own copies of
27 *The Scarlet Letter*, by Nathaniel Hawthorne. The teacher sent a note home to our parents saying
28 we had to buy it, or else we would have no book to read for the assignments. In my ninth grade

1 P.E. class, in the 1998-1999 school year, we had to buy our own exercise shirts and shorts.

2 9. Sometimes the students at Locke are not given the classes that we need, and there
3 are not enough counselors to fix our schedules. I was supposed to take world history in the tenth
4 grade, during the 1999-2000 school year. This is a requirement to graduate. But I was never
5 placed in this class. I was not told about my A-F graduation requirements until the second
6 semester of the tenth grade, so I was not even aware that I was missing this class until it was too
7 late to take the class. I am going to try to take the class in the twelfth grade, but if the counselors
8 do not give me the class in the twelfth grade, I will have to take this class in night school in order
9 to graduate. I wish our school had some kind of orientation, where they tell us what our
10 requirements to graduate are. That way, the students could make sure that we finish all of our
11 requirements. This is especially necessary because the counselors sometimes place us in the
12 wrong classes, and they don't automatically put us in the classes that we need to take. Right now,
13 the counselors tell the students just a few days before graduation whether or not we have enough
14 credits to graduate. By then, it is too late to do anything about it, and if you don't have the
15 credits, you just don't graduate. This has happened to people I know.

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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 19 day of July, 2001 in Los Angeles, California.


Virginia Barajas