

1 **Declaration of Starlett Brown**

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3 I, Starlett Brown, hereby declare:

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

6 2. I am 16 years old and I will start my senior at Locke High School in Los Angeles in  
7 the fall.

8 3. There is a shortage of books at Locke. My 10th grade English class did not have any  
9 books. Our teacher had a set of worksheets that she had used throughout the years in different  
10 classes. The worksheets were so old that many of the sheets were torn. The worksheets were all  
11 numbered so that when she collected them at the end of class, she knew if there were any missing.  
12 If one worksheet was missing we could not leave the class because she said she had to use the same  
13 worksheets for other classes. Any other work that she gave us she wrote on the overhead and then  
14 we had to copy it all down on our own piece of paper. It would have been a lot better if we had own  
15 worksheets; we could've learned a lot more in the time we wasted in copying our assignments. There  
16 was never enough time in class to do our assignments; when we were in the middle of doing  
17 something, the bell would ring and we had to stop. My History class in 10th grade did not have any  
18 books either. Instead of learning history from books, we read newspaper articles of current events  
19 and then answered questions about the articles. We would've definitely learned more if we had  
20 books; we would have been able to work out of them and learn the actual history that we should have  
21 learned. I also did not have any books in my 9th grade integrated science class. The teacher told us  
22 we would get books, but we never did. Since we didn't have books we only worked off of  
23 worksheets and didn't have any homework. If we had books we would've enhanced our learning  
24 because then we would've been able to take them home and review our work. For my algebra class  
25 of my 9th grade year we did not have any books. Our work only consisted of worksheets and of  
26 copying down and doing problems that the teacher put on the board.

27 4. In my 11th grade discrete math class we didn't have our own books to take home. I  
28 think we could have learned more if we had books because we could have taken them home and

1 studied, instead of just taking notes. My geometry class in my 10th grade year had a class set of  
2 books, but we could not take them home. We worked out of the book or worksheets, but could not  
3 study from the book at home. My health class during my 9th grade year only had a class set of  
4 books, so we could not take them home. If we didn't finish our work in class, we had to copy the  
5 rest of the work from the book and then take it home for homework. If I didn't understand something  
6 for homework, then I could not complete it. Not having our own books disturbs our education; if  
7 the teacher gives us certain assignments then it means we should learn the material, but if we don't  
8 have our own book then we can't really learn it as we should.

9         5.         In my 9th grade integrated science we did not have enough materials. Even though  
10 we were supposed to do experiments and labs in this science class, we only did one lab for the whole  
11 year. Even for the lab that we did do, there was a shortage of materials, so five students had to work  
12 in a group.

13         6.         In the 11th grade, during the 2000-2001 school year, I had a digital computers class,  
14 where we were supposed to learn how to draw on the computers. However, we didn't have any  
15 computers. The teacher had us draw images and learn about art history, but the class wasn't supposed  
16 to be about that. About 5-10 weeks before the semester ended we finally got computers.

17         7         In my junior year I worked in the library through my library science class. Working  
18 in the library, I noticed that we didn't have any working computers for the students. We also didn't  
19 have enough books in the library. While I was working at the library, there were times when  
20 teachers sent students to the library with a list of books that they needed for their class, but the library  
21 only had less than half of the books from the list.

22         8.         During my 10th grade year of playing basketball we didn't have enough resources.  
23 For example, we didn't have a first aid kit; my coach asked the nurse for one but she was told that  
24 there were not enough, so my coach had to make up her own kit. We also had to buy our own  
25 uniforms for like \$100.00. We didn't do fund-raises for our uniforms because our principal would  
26 take a percentage out of our fund-raises and this was not fair. The school did not give us money for  
27 our uniforms and equipment, but then if we went out and hustled for our equipment, the principle  
28 would take a percentage. We did not have enough basketballs either, so our coach went out and

1 bought five indoor basketballs. Our coach told us that she paid for them out of her own pocket.

2       9.       There is a big rat problem at Locke. In my physics class during 11th grade, there was  
3 rat crap in the classroom and all over the teacher's chairs. My teacher had a closed bottle of salad  
4 dressing in his cabinets. When he opened the cabinet we saw that the rats had bit through the plastic  
5 and ate the dressing. In the computer lab he had a regular water bottle and they also bit through the  
6 plastic of the water bottle. In my technology class during the 11th grade I saw a rat run by me and  
7 into the closet. I also have seen rat droppings in other classes. It's so nasty and unsanitary to have  
8 rats in school.

9       10.       The bathrooms are also a problem. There is rarely toilet paper in the bathrooms; I've  
10 had to run to the cafeteria a few times to look for toilet paper. I had classes on the third floor, and  
11 when I had to go to the restroom I had to go to first floor; this took like 10-15 minutes of class time.  
12 Sometimes the restroom in the first floor was locked, and I had to find a security officer to open it  
13 up. The hand dryers were not working so I had to use toilet paper to dry my hands.


14       11.       During my 10th and 11th grades there was a lot of construction going on at Locke.  
15 The construction was extremely disruptive in one of my classes during the 10th grade. We were on  
16 the second floor and the construction was going on right above us, in the third floor. There was  
17 drilling going on above us, so tiles would fall in our classroom every once in a while. In my 10th  
18 grade English class, my teacher once told me to move from my seat because another student was hit  
19 by a tile in that seat. The noise was very loud and was disruptive to our learning. It was so loud that  
20 our teacher couldn't speak over the noise. Even if she tried to scream, we still couldn't hear her. The  
21 teacher would have to stop and then start talking again during the whole class time. Our class could  
22 also feel the vibrations from the drilling; it felt like if the drilling was under us because the desk  
23 would shake. If you dropped a piece a paper on floor, it would move around because of the  
24 vibrations. This went on for half of the semester. It seems to me that the construction was  
25 dangerous to students. I don't understand why anyone would have construction going on during our  
26 learning time. Why were they paying the construction workers to disturb us during our time?

27       12.       My English class from my 10th grade had broken windows. The teacher taped around  
28 the windows and told us not to try opening them. The windows stayed this way for the whole

1 semester. We could have been hurt. The broken windows were not good for our learning  
2 environment. It affected our learning because they distracted us; we would have to worry about the  
3 windows falling on us because our seats were right by the window. The glass could've fallen at any  
4 minute. It made me feel like the school didn't care about us enough to fix our surroundings. I'm sure  
5 the principal or any other person wouldn't want to work in an office where the windows were broken  
6 and shattered.

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

  
Starlett Brown