

1 **Declaration of Natalie Perkins-Ali**

2 I, Natalie Perkins-Ali, 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 am a senior at Locke High School. I went to Locke for my junior and senior
6 years. I went to Gardena High School for my freshman and sophomore years.

7 3. Many of my classes at Locke do not have enough textbooks for all the students or
8 do not have any textbooks at all. For example, in my AP art history class in my junior year, we
9 did not have any textbooks until about 10 weeks before the school year ended. This really
10 affected our ability to do work in class. My teacher would give us assignments out of the art
11 history book she had bought from the store. She would select a subject from the book, and
12 present it to the class as a question for us to write a one page essay on. The only resource we had
13 to do our research on the subject was the Internet. For students in the class that had a hard time
14 gaining access to the Internet, it was much more difficult for them to do their assignments.

15 While there is information on the Internet, sometimes the information is unreliable, and it can be
16 very difficult to find information about an obscure topic in art history. Also, sometimes the
17 information is incomplete, or you can't find everything you need. This affected my learning,
18 because I didn't have a book that could be used to give me a fuller understanding of the subject.
19 When the teacher wrote notes on the board, at times they were very difficult to understand. We
20 also spent almost all of our class time transcribing what she had written down, because we didn't
21 have textbooks of our own to look at. My teacher told us she requested books from our principal
22 Ms. Webb several times, but they still didn't come until basically the end of the school year.

23 4. The textbooks in my print shop class during my junior year were so old and torn
24 up that it was very difficult to do the assignments. Many of the pages in the books were missing
25 or cut out. There were times we couldn't look up the words or questions that the teacher had
26 assigned. If you wanted to get a book with the assigned page in it you had to wait until someone
27 else finished using their book before you could do your assignment.

28 5. We did not have textbooks or a permanent teacher in my algebra class during my

1 junior year. We just had substitute teachers, and the substitutes would give us worksheets
2 instead of books, but it was awful not to have materials to actually read from and to be able to
3 take home. It is so difficult to learn a subject like algebra without the materials.

4 6. In my American literature class during my junior year, we had books, but we were
5 not allowed to take them home. When we actually received assignments, we had to copy the
6 questions out of the book. This affected my learning, because it made it more difficult to
7 complete the assignments and it took time out of class when we could have been learning more
8 instead of just copying things out of the book. At Gardena High School, where I was during my
9 freshman and sophomore years, we were allowed to take home our books. During my first year
10 at Locke my mom would often ask why I wasn't bringing my books home. I was fortunate because
11 I have a very good memory, but I know that other students were struggling to remember the
12 details of the stories we read in literature class. Several times students asked for my help.

13 7. During my second period chemistry class this year, we did not have usable books
14 for the entire first semester. These books were torn up, out of date, and very old to the point
15 where my teacher did not want us to use them. Instead of using these books, we worked on
16 photocopied worksheets until our books came. Once our books arrived, the class changed a lot.
17 We were allowed to bring the books home, so I could study more. I gained more clarity about
18 the subject, and I believe I learned a lot more also.

19 8. In my geometry class this year, we only had a class set of books, and so we could
20 not take the books home. This makes it so much harder to do homework. My teacher would
21 make up worksheets to do during the week, or put page numbers on the board for us to copy the
22 assignments out of to do at home or in class. I think this is a waste of both the teachers' and
23 students' time. We really need more books.

24 9. In my first semester fifth period AP English class this year, we didn't have any
25 textbooks at all. I received two paperback books for the entire year to do reports on, *Pride and*
26 *Prejudice* and *Shakespeare's Greatest Plays*. These books were very old, and they were coming
27 apart. Because we didn't have enough books, my teacher would copy things from books she had,
28 read them to us in class, and then give us questions from them.

1 10. In my sixth period Spanish class this year, we didn't have any books to take home.
2 We really need more books in Spanish class, because the books are all broken up, translation
3 pages are ripped out, and there is graffiti in them. I often had to look for another book when my
4 pages were missing or illegible. If you couldn't find a book or all the books were in use, then you
5 would have to share with another student or just wait until they finished. This wasted a lot of
6 time.

7 11. Every day at least one teacher is absent from the bungalow area, the area where all
8 the portable classrooms are located. If the administrators can't find an extra substitute then one
9 of the teachers has to cover two classes at once. This happened in my print shop at least once a
10 week during my second semester of junior year. For example, if the English teacher or history
11 teacher was absent then her whole class would also be in my room for the entire period. It was
12 hectic and overcrowded, and we couldn't do any work. The students from the other class didn't
13 have a lesson plan or anything, and so they would just sit there on the counter tops or they would
14 stand. I couldn't believe that any high school class could be like this. I had heard so many
15 rumors about how bad Locke was before coming to the school, but this was like my worst
16 nightmare.

17 12. My print shop class was also very overcrowded, even before other classes came
18 into it. The whole semester there were not enough seats, so people would have to sit on the
19 counter tops where the print machines were located. When we had assignments in class, so the
20 students had to use their notebooks to write on. There were people sharing tables, and a lot of
21 time students would stand up to do their work so that they could use the counter tops to write on.
22 It got so bad to the point that I really hated going to that class. I would try to get my parents to
23 come pick me up, because it was just so horrible.

24 13. My fifth period algebra class during my junior year was so bad that I had to call
25 my dad every day to pick me up. We didn't have a teacher at all for most of the first semester
26 and until about the tenth week grading period during the second semester of the school year.
27 Instead we had rotating substitutes. Sometimes we had no substitute at all, in which case we had
28 no adult at the front of the classroom. Students who did not belong in the class would come into

1 the class and disturb other students. Several of the substitutes would sleep during the class
2 period. There was no instruction during the class period, and so a lot of times I would go home
3 and get help from my brother or my father if I couldn't understand a problem. When I came
4 home and told my mother how terrible it was, she would call Locke and ask Ms. Webb, the
5 principal, why there were so many substitutes. Ms. Webb said that they were short on teachers
6 and staff.

7 14. My algebra class was so crowded at the beginning of the year that students had to
8 sit on the counter tops or anywhere else they could find a seat. At least 10 students did not have
9 a seat for about two weeks. When they tried to do their work they would have to stand-up or
10 write on their notebooks. I thought that was really wrong. Also, my sixth period Spanish class
11 was very crowded at the beginning of the year and not everyone had a desk for about the first two
12 weeks of school.

13 15. In my American literature class, my assigned teacher did not show up for the
14 entire school year. I had three different teachers for that class, and a lot of different substitutes
15 during the time when they were searching for new teachers who would stay for longer than a
16 week or two. In our first semester for about the first five weeks of school we had rotating
17 substitutes, but then my old teacher from Gardena came for the rest of the semester. During
18 second semester, we again had rotating substitutes for about five weeks. Then we had two other
19 substitutes come who stayed for about ten weeks each. I really can't tell you how horrible it was
20 to be in a class like that. I did not get the full education I really need. If it wasn't for my parents
21 and my brother helping me, I don't think that I would have been ready for my senior year. What I
22 didn't learn at school, my parents taught me at home. I know, however, that not every student has
23 parents like mine. I believe that if I hadn't gotten extra help, I probably would not have
24 graduated.

25 16. It was really loud in my second period chemistry this year, because we were in the
26 bungalows, and they were doing construction nearby for most of the first semester. The
27 classroom we were in was a basic trailer classroom, and did not have anything that could be used
28 for science, so we did not do any labs the entire first semester while we waited for the science lab

1 to be fixed.

2 17. The bathrooms are so nasty I don't use them, and so I hold it until I get home.
3 The school is so dirty I don't want to eat anything there, so I go home to eat or when my mom is
4 in the neighborhood she will bring us something to eat or come get us and take us home.
5 Everything is really gross at the school. The classrooms are dirty and dingy, and I wouldn't wish
6 this kind of school on my worst enemy.

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8 I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California and the United
9 States that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 21st day of June, 2001 in Los
10 Angeles, California.

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Natalie Perkins-Ali

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