

**Declaration of Venus Zometa**

I, Venus Zometa, 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 a 12th grade student at Manual Arts High School in Los Angeles. Manual Arts is a multitrack, year-round school with three tracks. I am on the A track. I am in the magnet program. I am 17 years old, and I have been at Manual Arts High School since the 9th grade.

3. The bathrooms at Manual Arts are disgusting and most of them are usually locked. The bathroom in the main office is not that dirty but students don't really use that one because there are no classrooms in that building and there is not enough time to walk there between classes. The bathrooms in the science building are almost always locked, and the bathrooms in the P.E. area are usually locked too. The bathroom in Wilson Hall is usually unlocked, but that is the worst bathroom at school. There is usually no soap and no toilet paper in that bathroom, and there is often water on the floor because the toilets overflow when you flush them. I don't even bother trying to go to the bathroom at school anymore when I can avoid it. If I have to go to the bathroom after lunchtime, I just hold it and wait until I get home.

4. The halls are really crowded during passing periods. We have a six minute passing period and even that is not enough time to get from one class to the next because of the crowds. The hallways are about 15 feet wide and they are filled with students between classes so that you can barely move. Every day classroom doors are opening out into the hallway and they almost hit me. I try to walk in the middle of the hallway so that the doors can't hit me, but there are so many students there that I sometimes get pushed out to the sides of the halls and that is where the doors open out. I know that doors opening out into the hallway have hit some people.

5. My A.P. English Literature class started the year with 40 students in it. There weren't enough desks for all of the students, so some students had to sit on a table with boxes stacked on it and some students had to sit on the teacher's desk. Having so many students in one classroom made me feel really small and I didn't want to raise my hand and talk in class. After the

1 second week of the school year I got put in a new class with only 12 people in it. I participate in  
2 the new class a lot more because I feel more comfortable talking in class and the teacher has more  
3 time to help me. If I had stayed in the old class I probably would have gotten a lower grade  
4 because I wouldn't have participated in class. The class that had 40 students was cut down to 30,  
5 but that is still a too many. AP classes are supposed to have only 20 students.

6         6.       There is only one set of books for my whole math class to share. We can't take  
7 the books home because we have to leave them for the next class of students to use. We can only  
8 use the book to do work in class. My teacher has to make copies of the lesson for us to do as  
9 homework. Having copies is not as good as being able to take the book home because the book  
10 provides me with examples and it has answers the problems in the back. I need to take the book  
11 home so that I can check my answers with the answers in the back of the book while I do my  
12 homework.

13         7.       The ceiling is leaking in Wilson Hall, which is in one of the most crowded  
14 buildings at Manual Arts. Every time it rains they put garbage cans under the leaks to collect the  
15 falling water. You can see yellow spots on the tiles where the water leaks through, and a lot of  
16 the tiles are missing.

17         8.       Some of the buildings at Manual Arts are really old and ugly and I don't like going  
18 in them. The worst building is Doolittle. Doolittle is almost always dark because the lights are  
19 turned off or broken, and it is always dirty. The floors are often slippery because there is soda  
20 spilled in them almost every day. I never see janitors in that building and it never seems to get  
21 cleaned.


22         9.       A lot of the rooms in the older buildings at Manual Arts don't have air  
23 conditioning or good ventilation and those rooms are stuffy and they smell stale. Even in the  
24 rooms that do have air conditioning, sometimes the air conditioning doesn't work or it makes  
25 noise. In one classroom in Doolittle Hall the air conditioner is so loud that it drowns out the  
26 teacher. Sometimes it gets so loud that students have to turn it off in order to hear anything, but  
27 when they turn it off the room gets really hot. I had French classes in that classroom for three  
28 years. I'm lucky that my track wasn't in session during July and August because it would have

1 been even hotter then.

2 10. It seems like the counselors put students in the wrong classes at Manual Arts every  
3 semester. For example, when I was a 9th grader, instead of having 6 classes I only got assigned  
4 to 5. I had to go to the magnet office and wait in the long line on my first day at Manual Arts in  
5 order to get a sixth period class. One of my friends who just finished the 11th grade at Manual  
6 Arts got reassigned to the same exact classes for her 12th grade year that she took in the 11th  
7 grade.

8 11. We have lots of computers at Manual Arts but we can't use them because the  
9 keyboards aren't there or they are broken. It seems like there are at least two computers in each  
10 classroom but we never get to use them. They are either turned off or the teachers are using  
11 them.

12 I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California and the United  
13 States that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 2 day of November, 2001 in Los  
14 Angeles, California.

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