

**Written Presentation Sample (B)**

The following article is taken from *'The Ontario Curriculum–Exemplars, Grades 1–8: Writing, 1999'*. It is a sample of Level 3 work from a student in Grade 8. The article is an opinion piece in the form of a letter to the editor of a newspaper. For this task students were asked to write a letter to the editor giving an opinion about a current issue. They were reminded to support their points of view with relevant facts and to be clear and persuasive.

**Grade 8 Level 3: Example 1 A LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Dear Editor,

Picture walking down any major street in a big city, in any country. Have you ever not been approached by a homeless person begging for money in these situations? I didn't think so. And what do we do? Ignore them. Most people are afraid they will be mugged or harmed if they stop to offer a handout to these people. "Go get yourself a nice hot meal." One might say, but what about tomorrow? We can't let these people depend on handouts from passersby on street.

Stats Canada states that 31% of all homeless or poor people are single mothers with infants or young children. What are they to do? Give up their children so they can afford a house and food? Why should they be punished like that? Donations and shelters have been established but, they don't seem to be doing anything.

Crime rates may be increasing due to people stealing or killing to get what they want. Suicide rates may increase due to such people taking their own lives because they've given up hope and don't want to live like this anymore. It is really very sad. Welfare may be an option for people who just don't have enough, but what about people who don't have anything? We need to think about this, we need to take action.

What I think today's society can do is find some way to start an organization with corporate support that can provide such people with money, basic necessities, and housing. Maybe then, we can give these people jobs and they can start a real life. If we try hard enough, and if we care about not only being safe from such people who are dangerous but, for the welfare of these unfortunate people then surely we can accomplish something that will give these people hope and a chance to have a decent life.

**Source:** *'The Ontario Curriculum–Exemplars, Grades 1–8: Writing, 1999'*, p. 142