**PERSUASIVE ESSAY SAMPLE:**

Schools should continue using the traditional calendar and not a year-round school schedule. Year-round schooling has several downsides: It has no positive effects on education, it adds to costs, and it disrupts the long-awaited summer vacation.

Contrary to the well-accepted belief, year-round schooling has no positive, helpful impact on education. According to the text on page 15, “Most year-round school schedules use the 45-15 method: 45 days of school followed by 15 days off.” This means are many first and last days of school. All those transitions disrupt the learning process. Also, there is no evidence of higher test scores. Due to that, many schools that change to year-round schedules end up switching back. For example, since 1980, 95 percent of schools that tried the year-round schedule changed back to a traditional calendar. It is obvious that changing to year-round schooling does not have a positive effect on students.

A second reason not to have year round school is that keeping a school open requires a great deal of money. Accor ding to page 9 of the article, “When a school changes to a year-round schedule, the costs skyrocket.” Keeping school open in the middle of summer requires air conditioning, and that adds significantly to the school’s expenses. The usual utility bills grow because of the additional open-school time. Finally, teachers must be paid for all the weeks they are working. With all these factors, the cost of keeping schools open becomes immensely high. For example, a high school in Arizona had a cost increase of $157,000 when they switched to year-round schooling. Some schools may not be able to handle such increases, and other schools that can handle these expenses could be doing better things with the money. Is year-round school really where the money should go?

A final reason to not have year-round school is that an important part of a child’s life is summertime and going to summer camp. According to the author, Dr. Peter Scales, “The biggest plus of camp is that camps help young people discover and explore their talents, interests, and values. Most schools don’t satisfy all these needs. Kids who have these kinds of [camp] experiences end up being healthier and have fewer problems.” With year-round schedules, students would hardly have any time to relax. During the 15-day breaks, they would be thinking about their quick return to school. It would also be difficult to coordinate family vacations with parents’ work schedules. Obviously, the summer is crucial to a child’s learning and development.

To summarize, it is evident that year-round schooling is not the best option for the school calendar, because it does not have a positive effect on education, it is expensive, and it takes away important childhood experiences.

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**Persuasive Writing Prompt:** You have read two articles, “Michael Jordan: A Profile in Failure” and “Stopping for Olympic Gold.” Now, think and decide: Who was more determined to succeed athletically, Michael Jordan or John Woodruff? Your response should be 5 paragraphs: Intro, ACES 1, ACES 2, ACES 3, Conclusion. Your response should follow the standard conventions of written English.

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