CATW Workshop Homework Assignment "A" *1/12*

Last Name _____ **First Name**_____

Workshop #: _____ **Date** _____

- Read the **Reading Passage** and follow the **Writing directions** below it. You may use a paperback dictionary, language conversion dictionary or thesaurus to look up words.
- As you read, identify the topic of the reading passage and look for the **main ideas** and important points the author wants you to know. Underline them. Annotate in the margins and ask W-H questions to help you understand what you're reading. Ask yourself: what's the point the author is trying to make? Are there any inferences or implications I have to make? Reread your workbook lessons from today to help guide you.
  Homework is due, and will be collected, on the next workshop day. The Facilitators will comment on your writing response and return it to you. This is one way we help you to improve your improve your writing.

Healthy Solution: Taxing Sodas

Seldom does one idea help fix two important problems, but a proposal to tax sugary soft drinks in New York State is just that sort of 2-for-1 solution. The penny-per-ounce tax on sodas and other sweetened drinks is a way to raise desperately needed money for the city and state in a bad economy. It also could help lower obesity rates, which have soared in recent years. The Legislature in Albany should adopt this tax quickly.

New York's governor dropped a proposed tax on sodas last year in the face of industry opposition, and lobbyists for soda companies are already denouncing the new proposal as unfair to lower-income families struggling through a recession.

It is time for Albany's lawmakers to stand firm against the soft-drink lobby. Their claim to be standing up for New York's poorest residents obscures the fact that those same people are their customers of choice. Poorer people, who lack healthy food choices, too often overload on sugar-laden soft drinks. Even though soft drinks are not the only cause of obesity, people in lower-income areas tend to suffer more from obesity, diabetes and other obesity-related illnesses.

The costs of health care for these illnesses are rising steadily. State budget analysts estimate that obesity-related problems cost the state an estimated $7.6 billion annually. This tax could bring in about $1 billion a year to help with those costs. The soda tax is supported by most health professionals across the state. The idea also got an important endorsement this week from Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York City, who said it could "make a major dent in obesity."

Mr. Bloomberg compared the tax on sodas to the steep taxes on cigarettes, which helped discourage many people from smoking. He estimated that the soda tax could cut consumption by 10 percent.

Adapted from an editorial by the New York Times Editorial Board

Writing Directions

Read the passage above. Write a ***summary*** paragraph of the passage ***in your own words***, stating the ***author's most important ideas***. Develop your essay in a second paragraph by identifying ***one idea in the passage*** that you feel is especially **significant**, and explain its significance. Support your claims with evidence or examples drawn from what you have read, learned in school, and/or personally experienced.

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Begin Your Writing Response below