

TRANSFORMATIVE FUNCTIONS OF CHILDREN'S WRITING

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Writing functions socially and politically in

I'm the same person, but I can write. . . . I can write
about something that happened to one of my family. I

gested that the stories we compose "mediate be-

to make sense of and transform human experience.

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Write opinion pieces on topics or issues, supporting a point of view with reasons and relevant facts. Much of this information they wrote and shared writing on a wide range of

in these activities, she had many friends who, in ad-

goin' down a hill and this other car was turning, and

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piece might function as an invitation for members of the rhetorical shape of his essay. Anthony would

public and for encouraging others to discuss this dif- community and beyond. In the first text that Paul

difficult social problem and potential solutions to it:

Like I thought I should write a whole bunch about guns because, uh, like the police don't even know what to do about guns. Police don't know about guns. What should they do? Should they put the people in jail or [let them] have guns in their house? It's probably all right to have guns in the house if you, no wait, if you know how to use them. So I think it's going to be like a good story that people can read.

It [my story] might help people. Like if their mothers have guns or if their fathers have guns, like uh the kids can sit around and talk to them like "we shouldn't use it" because you shouldn't use it that's what the

ever wrote as part of the Writers' Community, he described the history of a neighborhood park: his early memories of the park, its present condition, and possibilities for its transformation in the future:

The Park

There was a park. The park was a place for boys and girls to play, but the gang came smoking pot. So then the kids stop come to the park and then the gang came. The police come to look out so the park can stay clean. But the park never stay clean. The kids like me and you can't go to the park. This is not fair to the kids like me. I hope this will stop soon.

stuff about guns. I want police officers to read it. Like if a police officer reads it, I think they'll say this is a good

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ple was too lazy and they wanted to take the slaves

families, and he contrasted this problem with a story

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ings and stuff and he's havin' sneeches and stuff They

ation. (ERIC Document Reproduction Service No. ED
208 096)

Baldwin (Eds.), *Dialogues in literacy research. Thirty-
eventh Yearbook of the National Reading Conference*
(pp. 15-34). Chicago, IL: National Reading Conference.