Literature Review

1. “Spending Review: Increase in the Classroom” by Angela Harrison, BBC Education Correspondent

The budget increase for English public school will foster change in the economic distribution of wealth for education. Public primary and secondary schools will receive these funds, while universities will see a 40% funding cut. It is the Pupil Premium[[1]](#footnote-1) that will see benefit, but other programs that assist at-risk youth that are not education-linked will see cuts to support the smaller budget.

Mainly a citing of facts in paragraph format, this article aims at representing an unbiased view of the English education budget- though most influential journalists (as well as anyone with any kind of connection to the education system) have severe opinions of these budget cuts. Overall, it is neutral and factually reputable (as the BBC has a strong fact-checking system).

1. “UK Education Systems” by the British Council

This informational page released by the British Council breaks down the curriculum designed for the UK compulsory education that is required for students from age five to sixteen. It explains which math, science, history and other courses are required yearly for students. This page is released specifically for US readers.

3. “Sara Stone and Alison Keil: Building Relationships” by Maria Newman, Schoolbook’s *Principal’s Office*; New York Times

Stone and Newman, teachers with New York City’s public school system, opened a charter school in Brooklyn in which each classroom has both a subject teacher and a special education teacher. The school, Community Roots Charter School, now teaches 300 students in grades K-12 and sports an impressive 800 student waiting-list. The teachers explain that the school is a success due to the inclusive[[2]](#footnote-2) nature of the education as well as the collaborative teaching in the classroom.

The article represents a faction of US education often overlooked, alternative methods. Though it often appears that, in the United States, education methods are limited this article focuses specifically on a successful primary school in which the inclusive method is used successfully.

4. “School Work” by Nicholas Leman, journalist for the *New Yorker*

This article uses a simile to a “stock drama” to illustrate the dilemma within the US education system and asserts that charter schools[[3]](#footnote-3) are the obvious solution. This being said, the article explains that, because these schools appear to be the clear choice, other successful school-reforms are not being noted. Systems like Success for All[[4]](#footnote-4), which has shown to reap strong results, are often ignored and not implemented in most schools throughout the country.

This article is reputable, having been published in the New Yorker, but is not necessarily unbiased. Bias occurs here when discussing the idea that charter schools is not the clear-cut solution and others are equally as successful. Success-For-All, though relatively successful, is far younger than the idea of charter schools and, therefore, less tested.

5. “A Snapshot of the State of US Education” by Valerie Strauss, journalist for the *Washington Post*

The article, in contrast to others coming out in the last decade, boasts a brighter future for US education.

With a battery of statistics, including one that states: 50% of parents of students enrolled in grades 3-12 describe themselves as being satisfied with their child’s education, this article represents an opposing view on the future of US education, possibly leading to the idea that there is positivity on the horizon.

This article is a heavy contrast to the common scholarly opinion but is supported (perhaps over-supported) by facts included in the article. The Washington Post is a supported and credible source.

6. “US Behind in Math and Science” by Sally Holland for CNN

This article discusses a sense of complacency that has befallen the US education system, limiting reform and leaving US students behind in math and science on international exams. Additionally, the article asserts that improving education is key in improving the US economy.

The article states a relatively known fact and is definitely not the first of its kind in print. However, it is from a source that is credible and in good standing.

7. “Think Again: Education” by Ben Wildavsky for *Foreign Policy*

Another article analyzing the PISA[[5]](#footnote-5) scores and what they mean for America, Wildavsky takes a different approach by explaining that, basically, nothing has changed. The US has ranked low on education for the past five decades and that improvement undertaken to enhance education during the cold war to supersede Soviet Russia is clearly outdated. The conjecture is also made that America is more concerned about who is ahead of us (China), than our ranking on the educational scale.

8. “Get Schooled: No Child Left Behind Waiver Update” by Kayla Webley for *Time Magazine*

Waivers relieving states from their obligation to meet No Child Left Behind’s[[6]](#footnote-6) standards are being rapidly applied for. 37 states (including DC) have applied in attempts to escape the bill’s most difficult catch- mathematics proficiency by 2014.

9. “Improve US Education to Compete with India, China, Says Obama” the *Economic Times*

In response to a Republican supported plan to cut education funding, Obama encouraged a different decision by explaining that competition with countries like China and India should force us to continue to improve the quality of US education.

10. “The Creativity Crisis” by Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman for the *Daily Beast*

Studies show that, for the first time in since CQ[[7]](#footnote-7) tests have been administered, a steady drop has been shown in the point generally earned by children in the areas o creativity and problem solving. Hours spent in front of the TV may play a part, as well as the lack of creative development in US public schools. Comparing the US creativity curriculum to that of Great Britain, where, in recent years, creativity in schools has become priority, the United States students are struggling to keep up. It is also worthy of noting that China is also reforming their education system to include creative based problem-solving.

1. Pupil Premium- funds allocated to assist underprivileged students through compulsory education. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Inclusive education- educational ideology in which children with and without disabilities learn together. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Charter schools- a publicly funded, independent school run by teachers, parents, or community members under the terms of a charter. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Success for All- a comprehensive school-reform plan for elementary and middle schools based on set standards developed by the Success for All Foundation. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. PISA- Programme for International Student Assessment, a test administered internationally by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. No Child Left Behind- Education act proposed by then President George W. Bush and passed in 2001; uses standardized tests to analyze the success of students in public schools and allocates federal funding for school improvement. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. CQ Test- test that analyzes creativity and the ability to visually synthesize ideas to make improvements or problem solve. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)