Baltimore Breakout.

2 months ago, I was in the peaceful city of Baltimore eating fish and looking out to the ocean. Only to find out, 2 months later the city would be in chaos because of one death of a citizen. This is due to the death of Freddie Gray. Gray was arrested by the Baltimore Police Department for the possession of an illegal switchblade. Gray fell into a coma while in transport to the police department and injured his neck and spine. On May 1, 2015, Gray's death was ruled to be a homicide and charges were issued against the six officers involved in the incident, including that of second-degree murder. Protests were organized after Gray's death went public.

Civil unrest and hooliganism continued and as of April 28, at least twenty police officers have been injured, at least 250 people have been arrested, thousands of police and Maryland Army National Guard troops have been deployed, and a state of emergency was declared in the city limits of Baltimore. Police need to enforce safety and calm the riots in the city of Baltimore because the city is getting chaotic and more people will end up injured in result of the mistake by the officers.

There are certain events that took place during this time of distress but some are more important than others. Police Commissioner Anthony Batts discussed in a news conference this statement. "All are going to be OK but sustained heavy damage to their bodies," he said, adding that he believes that the tensions were easing. Still, authorities ordered a 10 p.m. curfew for Tuesday night. Jamal Bryant, a local activist and pastor of Empowerment Temple, announced
that he would open his church for teens with no place to go due to the school closures. He promised to conduct training on how to protest without destroying the city.

My feelings from the reaction by the citizens is I think they went too far. Baltimore turned a peaceful protest into a violent riot. This was a 100% unnecessary action by the citizens and only made the problem worse. The BPD (Baltimore Police Department) is doing everything they can to calm the riots, even punishing the officers involved in the act. Essentially, the police department should give a full apology and if the citizens continue protesting, let them. The riots will have to die down eventually.

The protests weren't violent throughout. The protests started peacefully with signs and quiet hollers and escalated to rocks being thrown and screaming throughout the city. Police union president Gene Ryan expressed concern that the crowds might turn into a "lynch mob". Ryan said the crowds were "calling for the immediate imprisonment" of the officers "without them ever receiving the due process that is the constitutional right of every citizen, including law enforcement officers." The citizens shouldn't have acted so ignorant in proposing for an unconstitutional act.

What the policemen did was wrong, but it's in the past. It is obvious that the citizens are protesting because of what the cops did. The policemen unnecessarily injured the victim who later ended up dying in the city of Baltimore. The death was ruled homicide and the six policemen were charged with second degree murder and more charges. What happened was in the past and you can't change that. The policemen were punished and that's the end of that. As much as the citizens want to avenge the death of a citizen, they will just get punished.

Government officials are giving professional and informing reactions to the riots. President Obama gave his opinions on the protests, "When individuals get crowbars and start
opening doors to loot, they're not protesting," Obama said in response to a query at a White House news conference. "They're not making a statement. They are stealing. When they burn down a building they are committing arson. And they are destroying and undermining businesses and opportunities in their own communities."

An official apology should be distributed throughout Baltimore. The citizens of Baltimore are acting out because of the actions by the cops in an accidental death of a Baltimore citizen. The cops have done a scattering of small acts that haven't pleased the citizens in result of the death. With all of this, the BPD has done nothing to calm the citizens. There will be more damage done to the city if they are not stopped so the police department has to do something. The police have to do something, but what? I think they should have a gathering in downtown Baltimore and have the police department officially apologize to the citizens.

We don't need to calm the riots, they will die down eventually. Many people say that calming the riots is a waste of time, a risk for police officers in getting injured, and it will only make the riots angrier. It is true that the riots will eventually die down, but it is the job of the BPD to calm the people down, and if they don't, they have permission to use physical contact. So they should go out into the streets and at least try to calm the riots.

Maybe this isn't the BPD's fault, maybe it's our own fault for being out of line. We need to better ourselves as a nation. The better people we are, the less we get ourselves and others in trouble.
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<th>Element</th>
<th>Advanced</th>
<th>On-Target</th>
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| **Content** | The writer:  
- Begins with a compelling and unique lede.  
- Provides a debatable claim that makes clear the focus of the op-ed.  
- Makes a strong, multi-point argument:  
  - Analyzes each point thoroughly and discusses the connections between and across points.  
  - Provides strong evidence to support each point.  
  - Sources are credible and evidence is presented persuasively.  
  - Includes multiple counterarguments.  
  - Effectively refutes the counterarguments.  
  - Employs a variety of evidence types: factual, anecdotal, statistical, authorities in the field.  
  - Provides a conclusion that is a call to action for the reader. | The chosen structure consistently reveals the writer's line of reasoning in the presentation of the issue.  
- Transitions also make clear the line of reasoning and create a logical flow between sentences and paragraphs. | The writer:  
- Skips the lede.  
- Makes an initial claim that is not debatable.  
- Provides an argument that contains only one or two points.  
  - Does some analysis of points but could delve deeper.  
  - Provides little or inadequate evidence to support point.  
  - Does not make the connection between key points and evidence clear.  
  - Has not used credible sources.  
  - Did not include a counterargument; or included a counterargument but does not refute it.  
- Concludes the op-ed without providing an action plan for the reader. |
| **Organization** | The chosen structure usually reveals the writer's line of reasoning for the writer's stance on the chosen issue.  
- Transitions also make clear the line of reasoning and create a logical flow between sentences and paragraphs.  
- There are only occasionally misplaced paragraphs or sentences. | The chosen structure does not make clear the line of reasoning for the writer's stance on the chosen issue.  
- The arrangement of paragraphs and sentences lacks logic. | |
| **Style & Mechanics** | - Voice is persuasive, authoritative, and consistently appropriate for the intended audience.  
  - The word choice is interesting, reflects the intended audience, and is specific to the chosen topic.  
  - Sentence structures are varied and complex.  
  - The essay contains no errors in punctuation. | - Voice is appropriately persuasive and a good tonal choice for the intended audience.  
  - The word choice usually reflects the intended audience and is specific to the chosen topic.  
  - Sentence structure is varied.  
  - Sentences are properly punctuated in most cases. | - Voice is not appropriate for the intended audience; or shifts in tone throughout the op-ed.  
  - The word choice is simplistic and/or general and is not specific to the topic or intended audience.  
  - Op-ed employs subject/verb sentence structure with little variety.  
  - Contains numerous punctuation errors that affect meaning and fluidity. |

This is an high-average 8th grade Argument Essay. The writer chose a topic that he has a clear opinion on which he presents consistently throughout the essay. This writer maintains the traditional essay structure while utilizing the elements of op-eds such as lede and call-to-action. This paper could have been improved with more consistent transitions to move the reader with the argument and a more specific call to action that is specific to this argument.