Freshwater Crisis Student Essay #1

No one can even count the number of people in danger. People die, people get sick, go into poverty, all those things. And all because they don’t have safe, clean, drinking water. The writer, Kathiann M. Kowalski, who wrote the article, Beyond Thirst: The Global Water Crisis introduces, illustrates, and greatly elaborates on the point that nearly a third of Earth’s population doesn’t have access to clean water these days.

First of all, the author introduces this point (or key idea) that people lack sufficient water by telling the readers the harshest, major points that need to be heard. For instance, the article by Kowalski states, “Every day, 1.2 billion people don’t get enough safe drinking water for their basic needs … lack of water and sanitation is deadly. Contaminated water kills 1.8 million children every year …” This evidence is helpful in saying that the author introduces the key points by stating the facts that are the harshest, but needs to be heard because, water is a necessity. And if you don’t have clean water, or in some cases no water at all, then multiple negative effects will arise: disease, poverty, death, etc. So, by mentioning what needs to be said, Kowalski get the key points out.

Secondly, Kowalski illustrated the ideas in her article when she gave the readers an illustration in their minds, or a good picture/visual about life (poverty) for some unfortunate people who have to deal with this crisis. For example, Kowalski mentioned in her article: “Adults can’t earn as much when they spend hours fetching water of questionable quality. Water-related sickness makes them miss work.” Again, these sentences help to state that she built sufficient examples in people’s minds when she gave illustrations in her article. The evidence is part of an example that was in the text, and it brings a good point. Adults are the only ones that really work and have jobs. If they don’t work, they don’t get payed. And if they can’t pay their bills, then living out on the streets is just as bad as drinking water that could kill you. Also, just think if this example was updated to a family. Two young kids, scrawny from enough food being in their stomachs because of poverty who can’t bring water in because they can’t hold the water! That has the mother doing it by herself, in which she would spend all day getting enough “questionable quality” water for four people. That’s if she doesn’t work along with the father. Even if she didn’t work just to get water and do chores around the house, she couldn’t get 5 gallons worth of water (which everyone needs that in their ecosystems!) for each individual. So basically, the author stresses how bad people have it when it comes to getting safe drinking water and by doing that, she gives examples of real-life situations of different families and people.

Next, elaborated is the very important point that the author has stated. Humans need safe drinking water to survive, but with certain conditions, they might not be able to. Lines 13 14 of Beyond Thirst: The Global Water Crisis by K.M. Kowalski stated that “when poor sanitation and other practices pollute water, less is available for basic needs.” With this evidence, the author is elaborating that water conditions are getting worse, and with today’s polluting and other general inconveniences, water for certain people – like people in “developing countries”, as used in the article – have a harder time paying and/orgoing out and getting water. This is just the author going into greater detail about what the main idea (or point) is. So, the author is elaborating that it is becoming harder to access useable water easily as time goes by.

In conclusion, getting safe, suitable drinking water is a huge problem, and there are so many causes and effects that this has on the world! Pollution and not taking care of the water we do have – one percent – had lead to multiple families suffering, and leading to the problems of lacking safe drinking water. This major point has been introduced, illustrated, and elaborated in the many ways to say that humans don’t have full access to safe drinking water.