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Question 1:

In the Diary, the author expressed his anger towards the students and parents who gathered outside Dallas ISD headquarters to attend a peaceful protest urging the administration not to cancel the fall sports and let them play. Generally, the author considered the demand of playing sports at this time was “too risky and must be stopped” as the United States was currently in the middle of a pandemic. I agree with his argument since a large amount of people gathering could increase the chance of getting infected by the virus. It’s widely known that Covid-19 was spread through droplets and everyone was encouraged to wear face masks or keep their distance from each other. Furthermore, in the Diary, the author provided a piece of evidence that said “...a lot of scientists think that a lot of Covid-19 cases are the outcome of transmission through aerosols.”. If this fact was proven to be true, the protest in front of ISD headquarters would likely become an ideal place for the outburst of the virus, since the transmission through was certainly swift and easy. The U.S is witnessing an enormous increase in the number of Covid-19 cases; lots of people are suffering from loss, including their families, friends, and jobs. Hospitals and health services were struggling with an overwhelming number of deaths, even the treatment was not sufficient to provide for the patients. I agree with the author’s point that sports are surely important; they are played to improve personal health, to provoke a sense of friendship and discipline; however, it’s not the right time to play. No one should abandon playing sports; nevertheless, in such a situation where people are living in chaos, playing sports could wait to be considered a priority at that moment. In addition, the consequences would be more fatal if someone in the crowd was contracted the virus. The person would start an infectious chain, dragging more people to get the disease. One point that I thought was controversial, is that no one would have the permission to force others to obey, under the name of democracy. It’s true; however, in this case, looking at the big picture, people should care more about one large community. It’s inevitable to face different perspectives on one topic, which sometimes could lead to intensive discussions that hardly satisfied both opposing sides. In this case, the spread of Covid-19 was warned by doctors and scientists, who specialized in researching about the virus; therefore, people should take their advice into account. People may get angry if they were not

allowed to go to work; if they did not get paid. Their angry reaction would be natural and understandable. However, mentioning sports and playing them would not be a wise choice to protest during this time. In conclusion, people should raise more self-awareness and I agree with the author that, under the horrible pandemic, we can set aside non-essential needs to focus more on general targets.

Question 2:

“You have stolen more than we could ever loot” was the sentence painted on the wall as the result of the vandalism in Kenosha, Wisconsin, to protest against the police shooting of Jacob Blake. In general, this sentence had reflected the anger of the protesters towards the police brutality and systemic racism. Breaking down the sentence into two parts, first, by analyzing “You have stolen more”, we could understand that the people of Kenosha were frustrated as they felt their civil rights were being taken by the authorities, or even worst, the citizens’ lives were at stake. In addition, the shooting of Jacob Blake had followed the death of Black Americans, such as George Floyd, Elijah McClain... had questioned the political system, whether racial justice still existed, and the people were considered themselves being oppressed by the authorities, to obey the laws without resistance. “You have stolen more”, under the protesters’ perspective, could also be referred to as “the stealing of equality”. In the Constitution, the founding fathers had emphasized “We the people”, the term reflected on the unity of American people, and in the Declaration of Independence, people have the right to abolish the system if its government showed any sign of sliding towards monarchy. However, looking back at the situation, the deaths of African-Americans who encountered the police had caused the public to outrage; the symbol of a democratic society where people from all classes could deserve the same rights is now collapsed. America is now submerged in chaos, with citizens feared about the insecurity created by the system that they were living in. The violation of civil rights had crossed the boundaries. Second, the latter part of the sentence “we could ever loot” merely reflected the burning by the people of the city. Stealing properties had resulted in a tragic scene of breaking and burning in the city. The sentence, as a whole, was a profound comparison that reflected the protesters’ point, that the properties looted by us today, was nothing compared to what we had to suffer. It’s such an ironic situation. I agree with the Diary’s author that “People are rightfully angry” if there existed an unreasonable violation of their rights. In conclusion, “You have stolen more than we

could ever loot” was a metaphoric image that expressed people’s grieves towards the brutality of the police and their anger after witnessing African-American citizens being treated unequally.