Assignment: Research Paper (Paper #3)

Due: May 9, 2016

Length: (7-10) pages

Details: The argumentative Research Paper consists of an introduction in which the writer clearly introduces the topic and informs his/her audience exactly which stance he/she intends to take; this stance is often identified as the thesis statement. An important goal of the argumentative Research Paper is persuasion, which means the topic chosen should be debatable or controversial. For example, it would be difficult for a student to successfully argue in favor of the following stance.

*Cigarette smoking poses medical dangers and may lead to cancer for both the smoker and those who experience secondhand smoke.*

Perhaps 25 years ago this topic would have been debatable; however, today, it is assumed that smoking cigarettes is, indeed, harmful to one's health. A better thesis would be the following.

*Although it has been proven that cigarette smoking may lead to sundry health problems in the smoker, the social acceptance of smoking in public places demonstrates that many still do not consider secondhand smoke as dangerous to one's health as firsthand smoke.*

In this sentence, the writer is not challenging the current accepted stance that both firsthand and secondhand cigarette smoke is dangerous; rather, he/she is positing that the social acceptance of the latter over the former is indicative of a cultural double-standard of sorts. The student would support this thesis throughout his/her paper by means of both primary and secondary sources, with the intent to persuade his/her audience that his/her particular interpretation of the situation is viable.

*Lastly, if you’ve any questions, please email me (professormandia@gmail.com) or make an appointment for office hours.*