Mr. Sutterfield

Composition I

Paper 5

Argumentative Synthesis: The Stanford Prison Experiment

Up to this point in the semester, we have read various articles by various authors over seemingly various topics. However, now that we are approaching the conclusion of the semester, we can look back and observe that two themes have emerged out of all these readings: The topic of obedience and the topic of learning and/or education.

Therefore, for our last <u>formal</u> paper of this semester, I would like for you to pull together these two above mentioned themes and to discuss them by drawing upon the writing and reading skills we have learned during the semester. In order to do this, you will first compare and contrast (synthesize) Stanley Milgram's "The Perils of Obedience" to that of Phil Zimbardo's "The Stanford Prison Experiment." By synthesizing and explaining the results and conclusions from these two experiments, this will help direct your focus for this paper. In fact, your thesis should connect and answer these two questions: <u>Should the topic of disobedience be taught in school?</u> <u>Does education encourage conformity and obedience?</u>

To write this paper, you might follow this particular outline:

I. INTRODUCTION *(1 paragraph)*

Using one of the introductory methods as a model (See WRAC, Chapter 3), create an introduction that captures the readers' interest or is provocative. You may, of course, use materials that you find in the sources we have read to craft this introduction. Either way, your introduction would need to conclude with a thesis statement, which answers or addresses the above two questions.

II. BODY OF THE PAPER

        A.   **Synthesis**: The first part of this section needs to compare and contrast Milgram's experiment to Zimbardo's experiment:

                1. *Compare/Contrast the results/findings of their experiments (1-2 par.)*

                2. *Compare/Contrast their conclusions (1-2 paragraphs)*

        B.   **Analysis**: To What Extent Do the findings and/ conclusions of these two experiments reinforce one another? *(1-2 paragraphs)*

C. **Argument**: Development of Your Thesis *(3-5 paragraphs)*

To help bolster your answers to the following two questions, you will need to draw upon and integrate <u>TWO additional sources</u> to support your claims. Of those sources, one may be chosen from any of read this semester and one (or both sources) from the databases. Either way, at least ONE source needs to be found using the OBU's online databases. Work to incorporate these two sources to bolster your reasons and claims.

1. *Should the topic of obedience be taught in schools? Why? (2-3 reasons)*

2. *Does education encourage conformity and obedience? Explain.*

D. Counter: Offer a Counter-Argument to your position. *(1-2 paragraphs)*

III. CONCLUSION (see WRAC – Chapter 3, pp. 90-95) *(1 paragraph)*

To write a conclusion to this paper, you might consider choosing from the following options:

1. Statement of the Subject's Significance

2. Call for Further Research

3. Solution/Recommendation

4. Quotation

5. Question

6. Speculation

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Paper Length: 5-6 pages + Works Cited page

MLA Formatting