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Early College Experience

Paper 4: Evaluative Synthesis (Obedience to Authority)

This paper assignment asks that you write an evaluative synthesis covering the Milgram Experiments using Stanley Milgram's "The Perils of Obedience" and the reviews of the Milgram Experiments by Diana Baumrind, Richard Herrnstein, and Matthew Hollander. The body of the paper must represent opposing views on one key subtopic of the issue (the Milgram Experiments). The goal of synthesizing is to further a reader's understanding of an issue by presenting multiple views. In addition, synthesis requires indicating the relationship between various experts and sources. Evaluation requires judging between these sources based upon the strengths of the arguments presented.

INTRODUCTION

- Choose one of the Introduction methods that was used to write the Explanatory Synthesis as a model for your Introduction
- However, for this Introduction, you must include your thesis at the end of the Introduction, stating which side of the argument you fall on or agree.

BODY

The body of the paper should include two sections.

1. The first section should **offer a brief summary** of the Milgram experiment. The first section should summarize the Milgram Experiments. In the summary, inform your reader about the Milgram Experiments (generally describing the experiment's procedures, outcomes and findings). This summary should be roughly a paragraph in length.
2. The second section, which consists of two parts, should offer a **synthesis and evaluation** of one element of the controversy surrounding the experiment:

a. Synthesis Section

Organize the synthesis of the paper around one main subtopic that the sources each address (preferably a subtopic about which the sources do not all agree, thus providing a controversy).

State the sub-topic that the paragraph will explore. *Paraphrase each perspective on the sub-topic by referring to the authors and resources that make up a viewpoint. *Explain the evidence and reasoning used

to support each perspective on the subtopic. *Briefly identify the relationship between the various positions on the subtopic and explain any implications that one view might have upon another.

b. Evaluation Section:

In the evaluation, respond to the issues raised in the synthesis. Give your opinion on the subtopic and evaluate the positions of each source on the subtopic. Evaluate the evidence and reasoning offered for each perspective of the subtopic through specific reference to the sources. *Indicate which perspective or view is the more convincing and why (again through reference and support gained from the sources).

Use the templates from “Templates for Writing an Evaluation” to help you set-up this section.

Finally, in this evaluation section, you would want to include a counter-argument or a concession argument. (See the handout ‘Templates for Writing an Evaluation’ for help in doing this.)

CONCLUSION:

- In this paper, the conclusion should resolve your opinion of the nature of obedience to authority (can it be dangerous?) or the experiments. You may wish to call for such experiments to be discontinued. Or, you may wish to open up the discussion to relevant current issues that emphasize the significance of obedience to authority. In addition, you may consider taking all the evaluation points into consideration and combining or resolving these together.

CITATIONS AND WORK CITED

- Include parenthetical citation after all tightly paraphrased and quoted material within your essay (following MLA format). ****Refrain in this paper from the use of the pronoun "I" in indicating your opinions.**
- Works Cited Page; Include an entry for each source used in the paper (paraphrased or quoted).

Suggested length: approximately 3-5 pages