Informational Essay

English 200
Advanced Composition

Dr. Silvio

For this assignment, you are to provide an overview of the debated surrounding your topic. It should include a summary of what each side in the controversy generally wants and a description of the most common claims made by each side. **You must remain objective—Do not argue for the validity of either side of the argument.**

Effective essays of this sort tend to be organized around the claims that each side makes, rather than individual articles or other sources. In other words, your paper should not be a series of summaries of outside sources that you have uncovered in your research. Organize the paper around reasons that are commonly given by each side to support its case and cite from several sources to illustrate how each side supports its claim.

Some things that you may or may not wish to provide include:

---a consideration of the underlying assumptions that each side makes.

---a brief historical background of the controversy. Has this issue been unresolved for a long time? Why? Is it a new problem that has arisen because of some new social circumstance?

---explanations of how key terms are defined. Do this only if these terms are disputed and need to be defined. In other the argument over gay adoption, both sides pretty much share the same definition of what “adoption” means. This term thus does not need to be defined. Arguments over the Patriot Act may involve differing definitions of terrorism, privacy, etc.

---a consideration of what is at stake in the controversy. In many cases, this may be very obvious and will not need much explanation

Your essay must **cite at least five outside sources** and include a works cited page (MLA format). You are encouraged to make it longer if you wish.

The essay must be a minimum of five pages in length.