

Taking Sides Paper

SOC 352: Youth and Society

You will write a formal 2- to 3-page paper pertaining to the reading and class discussion on a *Taking Sides* issue from Week 2, 3, or 4. In the paper, you will *discuss the evidence* on the issue based on the readings, reach *a conclusion* on the controversy, and *explain* the reasoning behind your conclusion. Your only sources need be the *Taking Sides* book, materials distributed or presented in class, and class discussion. This paper is due by the **end of the day on Friday, February 22 via Blackboard**. The paper is worth 50 points.

You have already examined the following three topics in this course:

- Week 2: *Does Playing Violent Video Games Harm Adolescents?*
- Week 3: *Does a Strong and Costly Sexual Double Standard Still Exist Among Adolescents?*
- Week 4: *Do Reality TV Shows Portray Responsible Messages about Teen Pregnancy?*

For this paper, select one of the above questions and write a paper that advocates the position that **opposes your own** as indicated on the Issue Report. For example, if you said "YES" on the issue from Week 2 to indicate you believe that video games DO lead to violence, write a paper arguing the case that video games do NOT lead to violence.

I am not concerned in this paper with your personal point of view. In fact, your paper will advocate a position exactly opposite your opinion on the matter. Therefore, based on the evidence, information, data, research, rationale, and arguments from *Taking Sides* and class discussion, defend the opposing position from one of the above issues.

Please begin with a title. You may use the question itself from the Issue in the book or be more creative. Make sure, though, that your title is informative (i.e., it tells the reader where you are going). The paper itself can be written as an essay answering the question or advocating a position. Alternatively, you may be more imaginative by creating a scenario, if you wish (e.g., arguing as a school social worker or a legislator).

In any case, make sure your stance on the question is clearly articulated. Make sure to present evidence and information from your sources to advocate your position. Provide documentation of your sources (see back for examples). Do not present a one-sided argument. Make sure to acknowledge the alternative point of view and provide a critique of it.

The papers will be evaluated in terms of:

Introduction

- a) Grasp of the issue and points of view
- b) Clear statement of your position based upon the evidence

Body of the Paper

- c) A rationale provided to justify your point of view
- d) Use of references to provide supporting arguments/evidence
- e) Consideration of the opposing point of view and a rebuttal of the opposing arguments

Conclusion

- f) Summary of your position and rationale; discussion of implications, applications, or ramifications

Style and Format

- g) Accuracy of information, evidence, data
- h) Clarity of writing (e.g., spelling, grammar, and form)
- i) Proper citation and referencing of information

Papers are to be typed and double-spaced.

Please Note: The assignment requires that you write a paper that advocates a view that opposes the one you specified earlier on the Issue Report (specifically the part where you are to "State your position; justify). **Failure to do so will earn you no credit because you did not complete the assignment.** If you have any questions about how to proceed, please feel free to ask me.

Some Notes on Citations

In-text citation examples (using APA format):

***Taking Sides* Article:** (Kreager and Staff, 2009/2017)

Author commentary: (Brandhorst, 2017)

Class Discussion: (S. Mindes, personal communication, January 24, 2019)

Reference list examples (using APA format):

***Taking Sides* Article:** Kreager, D. A., and J. Staff. (2017). The sexual double standard and adolescent peer acceptance. In S. Brandhorst (Ed.), *Taking sides: Clashing views in adolescence* (4th ed., pp. 101-106). New York: McGraw Hill Education. (Reprinted from *Social Psychology Quarterly*, 72(2), 143-164, 2009)

Author commentary: Brandhorst, S. (2017). *Taking sides: Clashing views in adolescents* (4th ed.). New York: New York: McGraw Hill Education.

Class Discussion: Mindes, S. (January 24, 2019). Personal communication.

*****Notes:** Both dates are used for articles reprinted in the *Taking Sides* book.
Use your best judgment on when/how to cite.
Providing more information on sources is never a bad thing.