Taking Sides Controversy Paper Assignments

The questions listed below represent controversies in psychology. Each question below represents a chapter in your Taking Sides text. In these chapters, there is a summary of the topic and responses in both the affirmative and the negative written by psychologists with expertise in that area. Choose one controversy from each section and read the summary and the responses. Your assignment is to write a 3-5 page typed double spaced paper supporting one of the sides of the controversy. Your paper should include (1) a summary of the topic, (2) your stated opinion on the controversy, and (3) supporting evidence for the side you choose to support. You must clearly support one side of the controversy.

Your grade will be based on the quality of your argument and supporting evidence as well as your writing style (sentence structure, grammar, etc.). It will not be based on the side that you choose to support. Keep in mind that supporting evidence that applies to many people is much stronger than a story that is about one person. Knowing something about one person does not tell you much about how an issue will affect most people.

The paper must reflect your own writing. Do not lift phrases or sentences from the readings in the packet. Do not simply re-order words in sentences from readings to include in your paper. It is appropriate to use a technical term or phrase directly from the paper. However, a good rule of thumb is not to use more than 5 words in order from the readings. Instances of plagiarism will be penalized and possibly reported to Student Conduct and Ethics Review Board.

Limit the number of direct quotes you use. You should only use quotes if the exact wording the author uses is very important. Otherwise, you should summarize what they say in your own words. If you have more than two quotes in your paper, that is too many.

There will be three papers throughout the course of the semester. Each paper will be from a different topic area. Be sure to choose a topic listed in the correct section for each due date.

PAPER #1: Method, Biology, Perception (DUE MON 10/1)
Should animal research psychology be eliminated?
Was Stanley Milgram’s study of obedience unethical?
Are genetic explanations of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder faulty?

PAPER # 2. Cognition, Personality, Learning, Development (DUE MON 11/12)
Does giving praise harm children?
Does a mother’s employment harm her children?  
Should psychology adopt a theory of multiple intelligences?

**PAPER # 3. Social, Abnormal (DUE WEDS 12/5)**
Does ADHD exist?  
Does taking antidepressants lead to suicide?  
Is drug addiction a choice?  
Is treating homosexuality ethical?  
Is pornography harmful?

**Format:** There are a few requirements for the format. These are:
1. Typed format: Type the paper using standard APA referencing style. This means the papers are to be double-spaced, with 1-inch margins. This does NOT mean that you will have a method, result, etc., section. This is an argument paper. If you are unclear on how to write an argument paper, please see your professor, the TA or get help at the University Center for Learning Assistance (UCLA).
2. Presentation format: You are to first pose your thesis question and then defend your position. Use examples from the articles you have read to support your position and weaken the opposing position.
3. Referencing: Be sure to cite your references. Cite where you got your information within the body of the paper. References for each of the responses are included at the bottom of the first page of the response article. You are to use the standard APA reference form within the body of the paper. Here’s an example:
   “Klein (1997) claims that multiple intelligences…” OR
   “Multiple intelligences are thought to …...(Klein, 1997).”
4. Length: There is no ABSOLUTE length requirement, although 3-5 pages should generally be sufficient. No maximum limit has been given, because different people write in different ways. However, minimum length for a decent paper is about 3-5 pages. But if your paper is much more than 5 pages, then you have probably too much for the assignment.
5. Due Date: All papers are due at the beginning of class on the assigned due date. There is a separate due date for each of the three papers, corresponding to the topics covered in that segment of the course. The late policy will apply to all papers handed in after the due date and time.

*Remember, that this is a college paper. Professors do NOT expect that papers follow the traditional 5-paragraph theme format. Rather, use the length necessary to make your points rather than “count” paragraphs or page lengths. You are graded on the quality of your argument, not on the length of your paper or the side you choose to defend!*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Criteria:</th>
<th>Points Possible:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Organization, Cohesion and Clarity of Argument</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depth, Elaboration &amp; Development of Argument</td>
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<tr>
<td>Argument Strength and Logical Consistency</td>
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<td>Grammar, Punctuation, Spelling, Proper Citation of Sources</td>
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<td>Total Possible Points</td>
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