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The Difference Between Analytical and Argumentative Essays

Introduction

Papers are mainly divided into analytical and argumentative essays. When undertaking a research assignment, one must pay attention to the type of paper required as it will, in turn, dictate the approach. It is worth noting that there are critical differences between the above mentioned types of essays. However, all research papers must follow some guiding principles, such as logical thinking, comprehensive updated study, and objective evaluation of information among others.

Argumentative Essays

These papers provide an opinion on a debate with logical arguments that support or favor one side of it (Headrick 5). Writers usually introduce the topic sufficiently before taking sides. A thesis is a statement that indicates a writer's preferred position on a topic. In addition, a comprehensive exploration of a topic is done for a writer to establish his or her stand.

Argumentative papers aim at convincing a reader to agree with the author's views backed by logical arguments and information from reliable sources. The writer identifies and acknowledges the views of the opposing side and then uses facts, statistics, and other forms of evidence to

prove them wrong. Moreover, it is advisable that he or she uses a polite tone while discrediting the other side of the argument (Wood 21). These essays demonstrate the ability to counter any opposing arguments using credible sources and logical reasoning. Additionally, writers should use good transitional expressions while moving from one argument to another to show a logical switch of thoughts. Such papers do not just demand readers to agree with the author's opinions. Instead, they contain intensive and structured research that establishes the reliability of the argument by providing useful insights and giving readers a chance to agree with their conclusions.

Analytical Essays

As opposed to argumentative essays where writers take sides in a debate, analytical papers present a neutral and balanced picture of the topic under discussion. They tend to answer a specific question rather than taking a stand (Redman and Maples 17). Authors start by forming a research question or topic. Its focus is neutral, and the writer evaluates and explores it guided by the study question. The author expresses his or her thoughts, conducts research from credible sources, evaluates the subject, and makes a logical conclusion. In general, these essays try to create content without preconceived views in addition to convincing readers to agree with the writer's stand as in the case with argumentative pieces. Authors thoroughly explore the topic under research and provide expert knowledge in their words. Moreover, analytical essays tend to define, interpret, and comprehensively explain information or answer questions. The material could be about a topic in a book, a play, a person, or events among others. On the other hand, argumentative papers try to convince readers to agree with authors' opinions through persuasion and citing relevant information.

Conclusion

The two types of essays require exploration and strong research questions or thesis statements. Discussions in analytical papers may tend to undergo more changes as they progress in a bid to answer the question using logical and objective presentation of facts. On the contrary, argumentative pieces employ the same mechanism but use the unaltered information to support the writer's stand and persuade readers to agree with him or her. Nevertheless, all essays must be properly cited when they refer to works of others.

Works Cited

Headrick, Paul. *The Wiley Guide to Writing Essays About Literature*. Malden: John Wiley & Sons, 2014. Print.

Redman, Peter, and Wendy Maples. *Good Essay Writing: A social Sciences Guide*. 4th ed. London: SAGE Publications, 2011. Print.

Wood, Nancy V. *Writing Argumentative Essays*. Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall, 2000. Print.



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