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Fornes

5 December 2013

Research Proposal

Topic:

I would like to research parenting in low-income families. Parenting is touched on by Gladwell in chapter 4 of *Outliers* when discussing geniuses and how their upbringing affects how successful they are. Millions of people and families are on welfare and rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provided by the United States government. The U.S. could decrease the number of its future dependents by training this generation's parents. My research question is, "Should the government require parents, that take advantage of SNAP, to take parenting classes?" My preliminary thesis is, "The U.S. government should require low-income parents to attend monthly parenting classes before they receive SNAP assistance in order to increase the quality of life, for not only their children, but all U.S. citizens."

Research Plan:

Claim: Parenting classes will stop a vicious cycle of poverty that developed when a poorly raised child became a parent and poorly raised his or her children.

- Not all impoverished parents are bad parents, but some of them are.

Claim: Parenting classes will teach lower income parents how to prepare their children to be successful in adulthood and how they themselves can be successful in adulthood.

Parenting classes help the struggling parents realize what they need to do to provide for their families.

Claim: The children that grow up to be successful will no longer need the government assistance and the money from the SNAP program can then be used for other national issues.

- Less money going towards food supplements means more money going towards roads, schools, and other intrastate improvements.

Sources:


Brady, Anne, and Julia Coffman. "Parenting Programs and Poverty: What's Our Evidence?" *The Evaluation Exchange*. Harvard Family Research Project, 1996. Web. 29 Oct. 2013.

This source describes research done on programs aimed at bettering struggling parents. The article draws conclusions from the research that are helpful to my argument. The conclusions detail what kind of programs work best, what kind of teachers in the programs work best, and what affect the program had on its participants. I could use this article to support my claims that parenting education is essential to getting people out of poverty.

Gladwell, Malcolm. *Outliers: The Story of Success*. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2008.

Print.

Outliers can be used as a source, because it is the book I selected a topic from. I learned of parenting styles and the affect they have on the children raised by them by reading chapter four of Gladwell's argument on success and legacy.



Mokrova, Irina L., et al. "Links Between Family Social Status And Preschoolers' Persistence: The Role Of Maternal Values And Quality Of Parenting." *Infant & Child Development* 21.6 (2012): 617-633. Academic Search Premier. Web. 31 Oct. 2013.

This source discusses how social status affects a child's persistence in preschool and how well the mother raises the child. The source asserts the higher the social class, the more likely the mother is more involved with her child and the child works harder in preschool. According to the source, these factors affect the sense of self-direction a child develops. This journal supports my claim that lower income parents aren't as involved in raising their children as higher income parents and their lack of parenting creates a cycle of poverty. If the child isn't nurtured, struggles in school, and doesn't develop a sense of self-direction, he or she will grow up to raise his or her children the same way.

