Final Paper Topics

The final paper will be a review of 3 articles concerning the subject chosen, from the Indian Hills Community College Library Online Databases. Minimum of three pages with an Introduction, Main body, and Conclusion with your informed opinion and bibliography page.

Or you can choose to complete a PowerPoint presentation.

This will be a review of 3 articles concerning the subject chosen, from the Indian Hills Community College Library Online databases. The PowerPoint presentation will have at least 14 slides which include Introduction, Review of articles, conclusion with your informed opinion, and bibliography page. These are the minimum requirements.

The final paper can be uploaded to the specific location in Learning Unit 10.

1. Handgun sales continue to rise, indicating that many people believe having a weapon will ensure their safety. But many people argue that the easy availability of handguns is a major cause of violence. They argue that the United States should follow the example of other countries and ban handguns. Which viewpoint is more reasonable?

2. Reportedly, many people are ignoring the dangers of unprotected sex. How can this casual attitude toward disease be explained in light of the spread of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases? What is the best approach for public health officials and educators to take in solving this problem?

3. The TV rating system was designed to help parents distinguish shows that are appropriate for their children from those that are not. Yet many parents say that the system does not provide enough information about program content for them to make an informed judgment. Are these parents mistaken, or is a change in the rating system necessary? If a change is needed, what should it consist of?

4. National Basketball Association rules forbid players from wagering on basketball games and discourage their wagering on other sports. Is this rule fair, or should it be revised? If you believe it should be revised, specify the revision you have in mind.

5. In recent years debate has continued, sometimes heatedly, over “family values.” The principal issues have been whether American has lost them, who has been responsible for the loss (if, indeed, there has been one), and who can best restore them. Many debaters seem to have taken for granted that the term itself has one meaning that everyone understands. Is their assumption warranted? Investigate and determine the meanings of “family values.” If you find significant differences in people’s definitions, build a reasonable composite, explain it thoroughly and answer the objections critics might raise about it.
6. Many of today’s talk shows and “reality” shows are sensational. Friends and relatives typically confront one another, talk escalates to screaming obscenities and, not infrequently, physical combat. Critics of these shows claim that their display of antisocial behavior has the effect of glamorizing it and encouraging imitation. Is there any validity to this charge?

7. In Asian cultures marriages have traditionally been arranged for young people. In our culture young people are free to choose their own spouses. Might it be a good idea, with our divorce rate soaring and so many families in disarray, for your culture to follow the Asian custom?

8. Animal intelligence has been a matter of scientific interest since at least the time of Darwin. Can animals “think” in any meaningful sense of the term? Can they form categories (friend, master, my species and so on)? Are they aware of themselves and their activities? Do they have sense of past, and future, or do they perceive only the present moment? What is the most reasonable view of such issues?

9. Historically in this country, high school and college athletic budgets have been divided unevenly, with men’s teams getting a larger share than women’s. Many object to this unequal treatment; others believe it is justified because men’s teams have traditionally demonstrated a higher level of skill. Which view is more reasonable? What changes, if any, should be made in the distribution of funds?

10. Compulsory education is so common today that we tend to forget it is a fairly recent historical development. However, some social critics are not only aware of its recent but are also convinced it is no longer a sound idea. In their view children even as young as six or eight, should be permitted a free choice of whether they will study or not and, if they decide to do so, of what and where they will study. Among the important questions, to be considered are these: Why was compulsory education begun? Was it a good idea then? Have the social conditions changed significantly since that time?

11. The 1990s witnessed the beginning of a new phenomenon—children divorcing their parents. What possible effects could this phenomenon have on the relationships between children and parents? Between government and families? Which of these effects are most likely to occur? Are they desirable or undesirable?

12. Some people claim that video games are harmful to young minds. Others, including some psychologists and educators, believe that, far from being harmful to children, video games are in some ways helpful. What benefits and / or drawbacks to you see in video games?

13. Suppose that a single woman becomes pregnant, has the baby, and then decides to give it up for adoption. Suppose, too, that the biological father learns of her adoption decision. Under what circumstances, if any should he be able to block the adoption and claim the baby as his own?
14. Most computer software carries a warning against copying, yet many people feel the warning is unreasonable. They believe that if they buy a program, it is theirs to do with as they wish, and that includes giving or selling a copy to someone else. Are they right?

15. Lawyers often defend clients who are guilty of the charges. Is this practice morally right? Does your answer depend on the seriousness of the offense? For example, would your answer be the same for driving while intoxicated as it would be for murder?

16. Since the onset of the AIDS epidemic, many people have experienced the pain of seeing their loved ones die a slow death. When the victims have begged to be assisted in committing suicide, some people have been moved by pity to grant their request. Such actions are against the law in most states. Should the law be changed? If not, should people who aid others in committing suicide by charged with a crime?

17. To some people the Asian practice of acupuncture is pure superstition; to others it produces a real anesthetic or curative effect. Which view is correct?

18. For many years, it was believed that children who receive early formal education have an advantage over those who start school at age five or six. Today, some educators challenge that view. They speculate that intellectual and emotional harm can result from putting very young children into structured learning situations. Which view is the more reasonable one for parents to accept?

19. The increase in violence in this country (and a number of other Western countries) in recent years has given new currency to an old issue. Are human beings naturally, instinctively aggressive, or is aggression learned behavior?

20. Many people believe that parents should be held legally responsible for the acts of their children. This would mean that whenever criminal charges are filed against a child, the parents would be listed as co-defendants. Is this a fair and reasonable approach to the problem of juvenile crime?

21. Some members of the animal rights movement believe that animals deserve exactly the same legal rights human beings. And some environmentalists would like to extend such rights to rivers, lakes, oceans, forests, and beaches. Do these views have merit?