Proposal / Brainstorming

Write a ~2 page proposal in MLA format for your research paper. The point is to think about your topic in depth and use reason to determine what research you'll need later to persuade your audience. Think broadly about your topic, clearly define it in terms of a problem to be solved, and think logically through the arguments without relying on research. If you must research a little, please DO NOT USE Wikipedia, and mention the source(s) used in your proposal. DO NOT COPY ANYTHING WORD-FOR-WORD.

Use the following sections headings:

1) Statement of the Problem

Explain your topic in terms of a problem that needs to be solved. What exactly is the problem you are attempting to solve? Why is it important to solve this problem? Who is impacted or affected by the problem? What are the costs or harms of the problem? What do you know about the history of this problem? (At this point, don’t rely on evidence from research. Use common sense and logic to establish that a problem exists that is important to solve.)

2) Counterpoint

What groups of people might be against doing something about your problem? What groups might deny that your problem exists or claim that it isn’t significant? What arguments might they present to block your attempt to solve this problem? How will you prove to them that they are wrong? (Think hard about this. Will people object to the costs of solving the problem? Will they object on moral or religious grounds? Will they claim that it is not a priority? What will convince these people to go along with your argument?)

3) Solutions

What are some solutions that have been tried in the past? How successful have past solutions been? What do you believe can be done that hasn’t been tried? How will you measure success? Describe the benefits of solving the problem? How will the solution benefit the victims and the population as a whole? (Brainstorm some possibilities. Think logically through the problem and determine some actions that might help solve the problem -- no research yet.)

*If you do not know much about your topic, and HAVE to do a little online research in order to write your proposal, then you MUST mention where you are getting your information right next to the borrowed info in your proposal.

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