<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4107777/>

Drugs and Human Behavior Term Paper Guidelines

Term Paper: A 6-8 page (not including face sheet or references; double-spaced, 12-point font, 1-inch margins) ***critical evaluation addressing 2 or more sides of a current debate or controversy involving recreational or medicinal drug use***. The paper is worth 35% of the total course mark In line with the focus of the course, please ensure ***your topic is related to psychoactive drugs (i.e., not antibiotics, anti-cancer drugs, blood thinners etc.). The purpose of the essay is two-fold: 1. to increase your understanding of an issue that is of personal interest or relevance based on empirical, scientific evidence; 2. to demonstrate your ability to synthesize this information into a COHERENT ARGUMENT***. The essay is neither a report (i.e., no point form) nor a literature survey (i.e., exhaustive coverage of an issue). Rather it is designed to promote a critical analysis of more than one side of a current debate or unresolved question using selected journal articles and chapters in edited texts.\* Apart from this requirement, the topic of the essay is up to you.

***The PubMed database http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed provides abstracts of articles from peerreviewed scientific journals. This is an excellent resource that you can use to find relevant information for your assignment (i.e., use key words - author, topic, title - to search published scientific abstracts). Google Scholar (not Google) https://scholar.google.ca/ is another resource you can use for more socially-oriented articles that do not appear in PubMed***. In many cases, the abstract will suffice for reporting a key finding or assertion. You may only need the full article in one or two cases (e.g., to describe research methodology or a particular sample of research participants). Students should restrict their ***sources to articles or books listed on these 2 websites to ensure that they are legitimate peer-reviewed publications. \*You should plan to read and incorporate a minimum of 5 journal articles or published chapters*** ALL information that is not your own MUST be cited. In cases where a direct quote is used, the page reference must also be given. ( it concerns a psychoactive drug/medication and does not overlap excessively with course material also how best to approach it (pro/con; strengths/weaknesses; medicinal use/illicit recreational use). be used for the essay. Each student must generate his/her own question on a controversial topic (more than 1 side to the argument) of importance (real-world relevance) and personal interest to them. The topic must deal with some aspect of psychoactive drug use or effects, but is otherwise open. ***E.g.Topic Statement: Pros and Cons of Legalizing Marijuana [b] Research Strategy: Compare marijuana-related consequences in 2 places - one where the drug has been legalized (Canada); another where the drug has not been legalized (most US states) [c] Topic Areas Examined: Areas impacted by marijuana and marijuana policy (i) Socio-Economic: Re-allocation of police and financial resources to combating "hard drug" use and or drug trafficking; reduced rates of otherwise law-abiding citizens with criminal records, (ii) Public Health: (intoxicated driving, increased cancer rates; increased rates of use by teens; "gateway" effect? to other drug use); (iii) Mental Health: (increased rates of marijuana dependence; worsening of*** mental illness in at risk populations like people with depression or schizophrenia); [d] Sources: List specific citations of at least 5 recent peer reviewed articles you plan to use to support your argument/analyze different sides of issue. Use PubMed or Google Scholar for sources. Go to Top 2020 The G. Raymond