Research Project/Paper: What the Absence of Compassion Looks Like

Discussion: So far, we’ve looked at different aspects of love: romantic love, the love of family, friendship, and the love for humanity. For this assignment, you’ll draw connections between what you’ve been reading about, writing about, and discussing so far and what’s currently happening in this country in relation to either education or the prison system. Using Reading with Patrick, some research, and your own interest, answer the following prompt:

In what ways do Kuo’s ideas about compassion (or lack of it) manifest themselves in either America’s education system OR America’s prison system?

Some help: In all actuality, you will probably find a general lack of compassion at play in our American prison system. The same might apply once you research what’s going on in schools in certain parts of our country. Do you have to focus on negative aspects? No. Can you? Yup. Your thesis statement/thesis idea should have one underlying point to prove, but there could be several “avenues” to go down with your writing to prove that point. Each support paragraph needs a topic/focus sentence/sentence idea for the paragraph to support/prove. Don’t forget, each point/claim should have correctly formatted evidence. Use paraphrases and direct quotes from Reading with Patrick and from research texts to bolster your points. Keep in mind, as well, transitions will assist you in demonstrating the relationships among your paragraphs/ideas, so please do include clear transition ideas. This is especially important because you will undoubtedly need to move through several ideas that fall under a larger, overarching idea. Think about how you will “group” your points and how you will transition between and among them. You must be concerned with how you organize the essay so the points’ relationships are clear and make sense: that they move smoothly and logically. You can jump around chronologically, geographically, or historically, but don’t jump around logically. Also, keep in mind, this essay does not necessarily have to focus on solely “negative ideas”! If there’s some good stuff going on here too, use that! For this paper to be successful, the writing must demonstrate a blend of information from our Reading with Patrick, outside research, and your perspective on the ideas (without the use of “I,” of course).

How to Build this Essay: There are two special concerns for this essay. One is that you refrain from writing a compare/contrast essay. That is not what you’re being asked to do. The second concern will be organization of your points. You must make thoughtful, purposeful decisions about organization. Should you have mention of Michelle Kuo’s ideas from Reading Patrick present? Of course. Do her ideas need to be including in the same paragraph as your researched information? Your “outside” proof of her points? Maybe. Could you separate those points and transition between them across more than one paragraph? Yes. Just make certain your organization is clear. You can make “jumps” chronologically, but do not make “jumps” in logic. Be certain you directly quote AND paraphrase from Reading with Patrick AND your researched sources, correctly formatted and noted on a correctly formatted Works Cited page.

Reading: Reading with Patrick, your researched evidence, and any assigned reading from The Online Handbook.

Format: Essay: At least 7 pages, correctly formatted to MLA standards AND a correctly formatted Works Cited page (not included in the 7).

Due: Benchmark #5 due, via Canvas, before class XXXXX. Thesis/thesis idea for the Research Project AND a rough outline for your support.

Research Project Essay due, Via Canvas—XXXXX. No late Research Project essays are accepted. Please plan your life accordingly to manage what you can control.