

ELN120

Term Paper

Grading Criteria

Research papers were evaluated on the basis of the following:

- Six components of the guide to the written assignment
- Each component provided a specific definition for students to follow
- Source referencing for sections of background and development
- Analysis development to show development of ideas and critical thinking
- Each section had a specific requirement of requiring a certain amount of writing.

Guide to Written Assignment

1. Seven (7) typewritten pages.
2. Please keep a copy of this paper for your files.
3. The Reference must include primary and secondary sources as well as pertinent articles from magazines and journals.
4. The paper must be in the following format:
 - a. Introduction: 1/2page
 - b. Rationale: 1/2page
 - c. Background: 1 1/2 pages
 - d. Development: 2 pages
 - e. Analysis: 2 pages
 - f. Conclusion: 1/2 page
5. All topics must be approved by the Instructor.
6. Topics selected should come from the required text or sources relating directly to this course.

Understanding the Format

Rationale: State why you are doing this paper. How does this topic relate to your own personal and professional experiences?

Background: Provide a brief historical overview of the topic. This must be supported by reference material.

Development: Cite relevant information from sources to develop and support positive and negative arguments on the topic selected.

Analysis: Select either the positive or negative position and develop your arguments (no sources).

Application: Describe how this topic is occurring in today's schools.


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Homeschooling

The reason why I'm doing this paper is so I can educate myself on different methods of homeschooling. I will learn the pros and cons of homeschooling and if it is beneficial. This topic relates to my own personal and professional experiences because I will know what to do with my own children in the future. I will either want to home school them myself since I will become a teacher or I can send them to school in an environment I will not always be around.

In the United States when a child turns around five years old they are expected to start school, this means attend to a public school where you get to learn basic skills like math, reading, writing and other subjects. Many parents and educators believe that in today's society learning about other cultures, is crucial to ones development and one of the ways to accomplish this is attending to a public school. When a child attends to a public school they are exposed to many different things like languages, religions, customs and more. However there are a small percentage of families that make the decision that they want their kids to be homeschooled. Many of the reasons why these parents make this decision include religion, dissatisfaction with the public school system, and others want to preserve values and ideas that are out of style within the public education system. Throughout my research I found many of the pros and cons of homeschooling, also how homeschooling can have an effect in today's society.

Let's first begin by defining homeschooling this is a form of education but is done at home usually by parents or tutors. Throughout the United States around the 1980's

homeschooling became legal in all 50 states. According to Susie Aasen (2010) some of the major advocates for this movement were John Holt who wrote (*How Children Fail*), and Raymond Moore along with his wife Dorothy Moore they wrote a couple of books on homeschooling like (*Better Late than Early*). In these books Dr. Moore and his wife encourage parents to use homeschooling as an option for their children's education (Aasen 2010). Like Dr. Moore many argue that homeschooling is a way to raise independent children that can make a difference in our society. They believe this because the parents are the main source of information and having to see their child grow and learn about the world is a very satisfying experience.

DEVELOPMENT

Homeschooling is becoming more and more common today for several of reasons one of the major ones is religion. Some religious groups argue that they want to see their kids learning about their religion, something that public schools don't provide. According Aasen and her article *New Followers of an Old Path-Homeschoolers* "Christians continue as a strong force, virtually every religious affiliation is now represented in the home-school community" (Aasen 2010). This means that most people in the Christian community vote to use homeschooling as the choice to educate their children. They are aware of the fact that in public schools, their children won't get enough knowledge about their religion due to the fact that is illegal for public schools to teach any type of religion. However these parents have the choice of choosing what type of education system, they want their kids to be brought up in.

Other reasons that parents decide to homeschooled their children are they want to make sure their child is in a safe learning environment, where he won't have to deal with peer pressure or competition. According to Brian Ray "homeschoolers also want to retain the responsibility of

raising their children and not have their children raised by strangers” (Ray 2002). In his article he also mentions that parents are concerned with all the violence, drugs and alcohol abuse happening now in public schools. Although principals and superintendents are addressing this major issue, these parents are not convinced is enough security to place their kids in a public school. Also these parents want their children to be in a free learning environment, where their children can have the opportunity to decide what type of learning styles suits their learning capabilities and personalities. They also want their children to learn about their culture and values without the fear of being discriminated and judge on what they believe in. (Ray 2002).

Having to play a major part in someone’s education can have an effect on their social development, many researchers argue that children who are homeschooled have trouble fitting into society when is time for them to start college. They argue the fact that they are not used to being in a classroom environment, and can be very difficult adjusting to it. Also these children are used to doing and learning material on their own, so they are very independent having to work in groups and sharing ideas can be also difficult. According to Aasen this is not a major problem because homeschooled children are actually achieving academically more than children who attend public schools. It can be the facts that the parents are more involve in their education Aasen mentions. These parents become the main source and the children feel pressured to show their parents, that they can achieve what they are expecting to learn (Aasen 2010). In standardized tests like the PSAT, SAT and ACT researchers found out that homeschooler scored higher on these tests compared to average public school students (Aasen 2010).

Time management can be one of the difficult things to deal with, while in a public school there is a set schedule parents find themselves struggling with time when they choose homeschooling. Although most families agree that one parent has to stay at home, in order to monitor their child's learning it can become complicated for the family because there other issues that have to be taken care of. Some of these include other siblings and basic chores around the home environment. Some of these parents argue that their kids are more attach to them and this can create some difficulties, when dealing with having their kids stay at relatives houses. It becomes a problem because the parents spend most of their time with them, and separating them is an issue. This strong bond that the child and the parent form can be helpful but can also be harmful to the child's learning development. (Williams 2007).

Some people are against homeschooling for a variety of reasons, many think that this particular education system can separate American society into religious, ethnic and economic groups. They are concerned that it can have an effect on the structure of the American culture and individuality. We are known for having many rights and privileges that other nations don't have, free education being one of them. Every American has the right to a free education, so these people argue that most families that are involve in this system are religious groups like Christians, Jews among others. Also the majority of these people are white middle and upper working classes that can afford to have their children homeschooled. In a working class these families cannot afford to use this education system because, the parents don't have time to stay with the their children and most important paying rent and supplying food for the table are their major priorities. So opting for a public education is the best alternative (Mur 2003).

Many think that homeschooling can be a danger to democracy the reason being, because the parents are the ones influencing their children's education, in a democratic system the government has the right to have some type of involvement in ones education. According to Chris Lubienski and his article "*Whither the Common Good? A Critique of Home Schooling*" he mentions that.

Home schooling denies this public interest. It undermines the common good in two ways. First, it withdraws not only children but also social capital from public schools, to the detriment of the students remaining behind. Second, as an exit strategy, home schooling undermines the ability of public education to improve and become more responsive as a democratic institution. Thus, home schooling is not only a reaction to, but also a cause of, declining public schools. Therefore, it diminishes the potential of public education to serve the common good in a vibrant democracy (Lubienski 2000).

With this said homeschooling can be a method to get away from the whole democratic ideal that this country is known for. Throughout his article Lubienski touches on very important arguments like the fact that in some states homeschooled is not regulated, this is essential because even if you choose not to send your kids to public school, some type of regulation or policy should be asked from the family. Is a way to keep the system controlled and for the government to have an idea of what we are trying to teach the new upcoming generations, we want to have smart, well prepared children that are going to accomplishing things that past generations have not done yet. Also of the 50 states 25 have no regulations governing except a requirement that parents notify a local public authority that they have decided for their child to be homeschooled. Ten of these 25 states do not even require a parental notification (Lubienski2000).

Although many people argue that the parents have the right to decide whether their kids are attending to a public school, private school or being homeschooled. The major concern

government officials argue is that they want to make sure, wherever the child is assisting they are getting an education most important that they are getting the right information in order to become successful, also that whoever is in charge they are offering the child a safe environment, outstanding resources and at last we are encouraging them to keep on escalating to a higher education. From a young age a child should be encourage to strive for the best, however some are afraid that a child won't be getting the same courage and goals if they are homeschooled because they are missing out on the intergrading of other cultures (Lubienski 2000).

Homeschooling is becoming more and more popular now days not only to parents that are dissatisfied with the public school system but also with those that have children with disabilities. Families that have one or more children with learning or mental disabilities also opt out for homeschooling, because the child can feel comfortable at home and the parents won't have to worry about transportation or wondering if their child is in danger. Other motives why parents choose homeschooling education over public education are that they don't want their child to be make fun of, they also want to keep up with their child's learning capabilities and what better way to do it than do it at the comfort of their home. Children with learning disabilities are most of the time picked on by other classmates, this can become a problem because it can affect their self-esteem and a child can become discourage from attending school. According to Ray children with disabilities "are more likely to go at the child's speed, provide one-on-one tutoring, and expect their child to blossom, with the result that the child does well academically" (Ray 2002). It's the perfect way to keep your child from feeling like they don't belong there, and that his disability is not something for others to make fun of.

Some of the statistics show that homeschooling is steadily increases around the United States; the number of homeschooled students between the ages of 5 and 17 has increased from 800,000 in 1999 to 1,508,000 in 2007. This represents an 88 percent increase, based on these estimates homeschooled students represent approximately 3 percent of children attending grades K-12 in the United States (Cogan 2008). This clearly shows a major increase throughout the years, parents are more focused in their children's education and they want to make that they are getting a good quality of education. According to Eric J. Isenberg and his research on the major reasons why parents opt for homeschooling his research shows that 30% of parents said religion, 48% better education, 14 % special needs like disabilities and finally 9% a different reason. These are some of the statistics that clearly show why parents choose homeschooling like mentioned before religion along with education are the main reasons (Isenberg 2007).

Many parents choose the public school system because is economically more suitable to fit their lifestyles. The average family spends around \$200-500 dollars each year for a child who attends to a public school; this includes school supplies, school trips, school lunch for those who don't get a lunch voucher. Now let's take a look what the average family spends for a child who is homeschooled, \$1,000-2,000 a year per student this includes on-line fees, books and materials. Let's also keep in mind that these parents are responsible for feeding the child, while they are home, activities like going to theme parks, museums all of these costs come from the family's pocket. So we can conclude that a family who decides to homeschooled their child is investing a lot more than a family who chooses public education. Like mentioned before the majority of working classes families cannot afford the pleasure of using the homeschooled system, first it

does not suit their budget and the expenses that come along are too much to handle (Chubbuck 1993).

When we think of those parents that are dissatisfied with the public school system their major argument is that, their children won't learn the values and morals that they will at home. The public school system is based on material that is free from teaching any type of religion system or religious beliefs. The concept that the children are expected to respect one another and their teacher is very vague. They only learn what's expected from them in society but none of these concepts go beyond this idea. The parents also argue that the material that is given to a child is based on the average student, so they have to meet certain standards that the child at the time might not comprehend subjects like math and science are usually their major concern. The parents also argue that the majority of public school classrooms are overcrowded and their child won't be able to have the extra attention that might help him excel on the standardized exams. Having one on one lessons are more convenient because they get to learn the material at their learning pace, also having the ability to ask questions while not being interrupted by others is a major advantage (Chubbuck 1993).

In conclusion many things should be taken into account when deciding what type of education is best for a child. Parents should know the advantages and disadvantages of both homeschooling and public school education systems and what both have to offer. Like we saw many of the reasons why parents preferred homeschooling religion and education both were at the top. In my opinion homeschooling serves as an alternative for those parents concerned about their child's education, I think is a good choice for parents that have children with disabilities

because they have the opportunity to witness their child's growth and improvement. On the other hand I believe that children should have the opportunity to be able to interact with other children their age, in order to gain social skills that can be useful in the child's future, we live in a multicultural society and it is important to learn and experience different cultures. With that said whatever system the family decides to choose, offering an education is the most important thing one can do for a child.

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