

This essay is a typical example of an essay written by a student with a specialized interest in the subject he examines. This is clearly an advantage with respect to background knowledge and understanding but a potential disadvantage if the writer is biased. This essay exhibits an impressively comprehensive knowledge of the debate but also an attention to balanced argumentation. The student bases his argument on a number of scholarly sources and adds impressive primary sources and reliable internet sources. He uses these sources skilfully and is never dominated by them. The argumentation is focused. An hypothesis is established and explored in a way that indicates both a genuine understanding of complex issues and an ability to write lucidly.

The main strength of this essay therefore is the quality of the argument, which encompasses historical background, conceptual grasp and detailed knowledge of recent events. All are melded into a conclusion that supports the candidate's hypothesis.

This essay offers an excellent model to the student who wishes to tackle a subject in which they have an abiding interest or of which they have personal experience. The line of argument is clear, focused and balanced, and is informed but not dominated by specialized knowledge. It has a firm scholarly base. A minor criticism is that the title is unwieldy.