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Argumentative Research Paper Generator

Step 1: Write your thesis here:

State laws that enable grandparents (in-laws) to force relationships with their children & grandchildren infringe upon the rights of an individual to choose whom they will have a relationship with, and should be removed from the law books.

Step 2: What will my audience know about this topic? How much background information do I need to give them? What terms do I need to define? What are my readers' values and beliefs?

My audience likely knows about parental custodial rights that are legislated in divorces, but not likely what laws allow grandparents/in-laws similar rights. I need to review what laws there are, which states have them, and how they can be used. Much of my audience likely supports the concept of having grandparents play a role in a child's life, but they may not know it can be made mandatory by law, regardless of how the parents feel about the issue.

Step 3: Generate at least three “because clauses” that support your thesis and tie them to audience values/beliefs:

Such laws should be revoked because:

Reason 1: Individuals should be allowed to associate with whomever they want and exclude those they don't want and beyond that & lawsuits against parents by grandparents (in-laws) may overstep that freedom of association.

Reason 2: Association with the grandparents (in-laws) may directly go against the parent's wishes.

Reason 3: There may be justifiable cause to restrict grandparent (in-law) access to parents/grandchildren that ignoring may put those individuals at risk of, such as a track record of abuse by the grandparents (in-laws)

Step 4: Now think of what kinds of evidence you will need to support these reasons (authoritative testimony, real events, statistics, analogous examples, eye witness accounts, study results, etc.)? Where can I find this evidence?

Types of evidence for reason 1: (Scholarly article) An article titled “Estrangement Between Mothers and Adult Children: The Role of Norms and Values” discusses the theories of how estrangement occurs and why.

Types of evidence for reason 2: (Scholarly article) An article titled “Safe Haven: Granting Support to Victims of Child Abuse Who Have Been Judicially Emancipated” elaborates on reasons ties between a parent and child may require severance for the sake of the child: escaping abuse, manipulation, and so on.

Types of evidence for reason 3: (real event of in-law abuse) The tragedy of the Powell family and how Susan Powell (parent) was affected by the actions of Steve Powell (in-law); it may have been a factor of her mysterious disappearance and the murder of her children at the hands of their own father, who also had enabled his father's actions. If Susan had lived in a state that had grandparent rights laws, Steve could have abused such a system via lawsuit to gain access to *her* under the guise of wanting a relationship with his grandsons.

Step 5: What kinds of criticism might your opposition make to your argument?

Not all grandparents (in-laws) are abusive or act in ways that warrant to be cut off from their family members. They may just want to be involved and connect with people they love and the laws that enable them to sue for rights may be their only recourse.

Step 6: How might you respond to that opposition?

Provided the child has a suitable guardian, that guardian has the right to disassociate with anyone according to their own discernment (freedom of association), whether for their own sake or the child's regardless of whether or not it is deserved by the other party. Legally forcing a relationship is more likely to strain ties than to repair them.

Step 7: What might make a good introduction to this paper (e.g., a short narrative that is representative and appropriate, maybe something from your service, a startling statistic, etc.)?

A law meant to strengthen family ties, encourage healthy cross-generational relationships, and promote traditional family structures opens the door for manipulation, abuse, and blackmail. In extreme cases it could even lead to death.

Step 8: What will give your essay a sense of closure? Can you echo your opener in the conclusion? Do we want to place the argument in a larger context? Do you want to show your readers what you've said that's new? Do you need to answer the question "so what"? Should you issue a challenge to your reader? Do you want to look to the future?

Individual freedom of association should not be infringed upon and laws enabling extended family members to file lawsuits against that should be revoked. The traditional family structure in which these laws are based fail because they overlook individual liberty in favor of that tradition. There are already custody, parent rights & emancipation laws in place for navigating the complexities of the immediate family structure as it relates to individual liberties; any further laws delegating mandatory relationships are excessive and reductive to personal choice.