Essay Number 2

Every shred of information can be analyzed and presented as an argument, from the simplest information to the deepest biographies. Every piece of information is a detail that provides information on the past and therefore explains the present and predicts the future.

When looking at simple information, like that provided by the Department of Homeland Security regarding Agents Galen E. Turner and Mark O. Melder, one can learn many important details. Both men have unique pasts that may hold connections to both their present and future. For example, Agent Turner, the program director has a Th.D. in Biblical Studies that he left the country to attain, and he also has advanced degrees in statistics, mathematics, and religious studies from several different universities. Another notable addition is Agent Turner’s birth details. Agent Turner was born in 1961 in Honolulu, Hawaii, and a common stereotype associated with children born in the 1960’s, especially Hawaiians of the decade, is a wild streak and easy going personality. Despite this common streak among the group of children, Turner seems to have differed from it, as evidence by his time spent in the Air Force, which requires strict discipline. While the origins of this service were not provided, it seems to have instilled a distinct discipline within Turner. Though the military no doubt affected Turner, the times during which he was raised cannot be completely expunged, and this is exhibited by several moves that Turner made while pursuing his degrees. While Agent Turner’s past suggests that he was a child of the 1960’s who has a high sense of discipline and a near suppression of the wild streak characterized by children of that decade, Agent Melder is the opposite in the sense of a wild side and personality. In a similar fashion to that of Agent Turner, Agent Melder was not born within the confines of the 48 contiguous United States. Melder was born in Bad Tolz in 1966, and he also lists that he is Discordian. These various attributes, as well as the facts that he has a Ph.D from a foreign University and lower degrees from various other schools with unique names, are very suggestive of the streak and personality that characterized the era during which Melder was born and raised. As a counter point, Melder was a tactics instructor with the Marine Corps., but this position is listed as previous employment and does not suggest that Melder received the discipline associated with military service at an earlier age. Mysteriously Melder’s Marine Corps service is that he does not list a date during which he was an instructor.

In many cases, analysis provides detail for argument. In the case of the two agents born in the same decade, one characterized by a free spirit and wild personality of the decade and the other by the discipline of the military, the argument is especially clear. The analysis proves clearly and supports the central argument that childhood discipline changes lives radically.