

Is it always best to tell the truth?

An Argumentative Essay Sample

General
Opening
of the
Topic

While most people are entitled to formulate personal *opinions*, they are not always capable of formulating their own *facts*. Facts are indisputable. Facts are **truths** that keep society's inhabitants honest, and nations at peace. It is, without a doubt, always best to tell the truth based on standard, personal principle.

Persuasive
THESIS
takes a
clear stand

TOPIC
SENTENCE
reflects
prompt
and
introduces
first CLAIM

Presenting the truth is the very basis of the American **judicial** system. When a witness takes the stand, he or she is sworn in under oath to "tell the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God." Telling the truth is therefore an indication of one's righteousness and honor. An entire case's verdict is premised on telling the truth, not renditions of it. Renditions of the truth are not protected in a court of law, making it evident that the judicial system in the U.S. goes to great lengths to ensure that the truth is always told, as this is part of the national, moral standard.

LOGICAL
Point;
CONCRETE
Example/
CONTEXT

CLAIM

Many **politicians** believe that they have a license to **lie**, *however*. In some instances, **government officials** might make the excuse that lying is necessary to protect the security of a country. Even though politicians justify this in the name

EXPLAIN

of 'the greater good,' lying creates a false perception of reality. Consider the Watergate Scandal of the 1970s. **President Nixon** claimed he was hiding truths

EVIDENCE

about his abuse of political power because it was 'for the good of the nation,' yet he became the first president to resign for these dishonest acts. Since politicians are charged with the duty of honest leadership and are characterized as

TIE BACK TO
POINT

honorable and ethical, **TIE BACK TO POINT** they should tell the truth always, despite its repercussions.

Notice how
this
paragraph is
ALSO about
Politics...it's
ok to have
more than
one
paragraph
about a
single point!

SEAMLESS
TRANSITION

Not only is the truth valuable politically, but it bears **religious** principle as well. Knowing the truth, speaking the truth, and feeling the truth are three integral mottos in both **Buddhist and Hindu beliefs**, two of the most ancient religions of Eastern culture. These mantras filter into the modern practice of **yoga**, because in this practice, telling the truth is at the core of one's own spiritual growth and discovery.

Consistently
uses prompt
language to
maintain
FOCUS

The power of truth is particularly valuable when considering one's **health**. Lots of times, harmful behaviors such as smoking and drinking are glamourized on reality television shows, or glorified in Hollywood films.

CLAIM

However, by knowing the truth of what lies beneath choices like these, one can make more informed decisions. The modern commercial ad campaign, "The Truth.com," for example, seeks to reveal the dangerous consequences of

EXPLAIN

smoking. Specifically, it unearths the deadly facts of tobacco in an effort to curb use. These harsh but telling truths are saving lives every day, as quitters become winners when they use the truth to empower their own lifestyle behaviors.

EVIDENCE

TIE BACK TO
POINT

Freshly
reasserts
THESIS

It's fairly clear that, *more often than not*, the truth will always "set us free." Based on sheer, moral principle, it is important that we speak truth to one another **if we want society to improve**. Withholding it does not necessarily

Considers
BIGGER
PICTURE;
DRAWS a
CONCLUSION
about the
topic

make us liars, but it does **leave room for consequence** when things are left unsaid. *While the occasional circumstance might arise where masking the truth may be necessary*, these situations are far and few between, mere exceptions to choosing the higher road of always being honest.

Recognizes
opposite
side but
still
maintains
point

WORD COUNT = 539

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