

Jimmy Alcover

Phil 1250

Capstone project 3.

Spanking: How We Have Normalized Hitting Our Kids and Why We Need to Stop.

Overview of the Argument:

The argument delves into the controversial issue of corporal punishment, specifically spanking, in the context of parenting. It establishes the prevalence of spanking in the United States and endeavors to dissuade readers from its use by presenting evidence of detrimental effects on children's well-being. The argument introduces alternatives, with a focus on advocating for the authoritative parenting style.

Discursive Setting:

Situated within the fields of parenting, psychology, and social sciences, the argument employs academic and informative language tailored for a general audience concerned with child development and parenting techniques. It adopts a persuasive tone, underpinned by empirical evidence and logical reasoning.

Part Two: Argument Analysis

Issue:

The central issue examines whether corporal punishment, specifically spanking, is an effective and ethical parenting technique.

Claim/Conclusion:

The main claim posits that spanking has adverse long and short-term consequences on children's well-being, advocating for its discouragement as a parenting technique.

Major Premises and Sub-premises:

Premise 1: Spanking is prevalent in the U.S., indicating its commonality in parenting practices.

Sub-premise 1.1: The frequency of spanking varies across socioeconomic and cultural factors.

Premise 2: Research shows a correlation between spanking and negative outcomes in children.

Sub-premise 2.1: Antisocial behaviors increase with the frequency of spanking.

Sub-premise 2.2: Aggressive behaviors and cognitive disruptions are associated with spanking.

Premise 3: Spanking is influenced by situational factors, such as stress and ideological beliefs.

Sub-premise 3.1: Low-income and single-parent households tend to use spanking as a quick alternative.

Sub-premise 3.2: Ideological factors, such as conservative religious beliefs, contribute to the approval of spanking.

Missing Premises or Unstated Assumptions:

The argument assumes that the negative outcomes associated with spanking are solely due to the act of spanking and not influenced by other variables. It also assumes that alternatives, particularly the authoritative parenting style, are universally effective in preventing negative outcomes.

Part Three: Evaluation and Reflection

Validity and Strength:

Evaluation of Argument:

Strengths:

Factual Basis: The argument is supported by real-world evidence, enhancing its credibility.

Consistency: The argument maintains a consistent theme, focusing on the negative impacts of spanking.

Research Support: Multiple studies are cited, bolstering the claims.

Solutions Offered: The argument suggests an alternative – authoritative parenting.

Call to Action: It concludes with a call for awareness and change, motivating readers.

Weaknesses/Considerations:

Overgeneralization: The argument assumes one parenting style fits all, overlooking individual and cultural differences.

Unstated Assumptions: It assumes a direct link between spanking and negative outcomes without exploring other factors.

Counterarguments: Lack of consideration for opposing views weakens the argument.

Overall:

The argument is robust with real evidence, logical flow, and solutions. To improve, it could recognize diversity in parenting and address potential counterarguments.

Form and Content:

The argument is logically structured, presenting claims with supporting evidence.

It effectively integrates research findings to support its stance against spanking.

Reflection on Effectiveness:

The argument effectively highlights the negative consequences of spanking.

The discussion on alternatives adds depth to the overall effectiveness of the argument.

However, the assumption that the authoritative parenting style is universally applicable might limit its persuasiveness.

Part Four: Two Responses

Response #1 (Fun Response)

Dear Author,

Your argument against spanking is utterly ridiculous! I mean, come on, all this talk about negative outcomes and psychological disorders is just a bunch of nonsense. I was spanked as a kid, and I turned out just fine. In fact, I think kids these days need a good spanking to discipline them properly. Your so-called "research" is just a bunch of mumbo-jumbo, and I do not buy into your highfalutin theories. Spare me the authoritative parenting nonsense. Kids need a firm hand, not some wishy-washy approach.

Response #2 (Real Response)

Dear Author,

Thank you for your insightful exploration of the impact of corporal punishment on children. I appreciate the effort to bring attention to the potential negative consequences associated with spanking. Your emphasis on alternatives, particularly the authoritative parenting style, offers a constructive approach to discipline.

While I agree with your overarching concern about the adverse effects of spanking, I would like to delve deeper into the cultural and socioeconomic factors that contribute to its prevalence. Additionally, exploring further nuances in the effectiveness of alternative parenting styles across diverse cultural contexts could enhance the comprehensiveness of your argument.

In conclusion, your argument provides a valuable contribution to the ongoing discourse on parenting practices.

<https://www.psychologyinaction.org/2021-4-20-tbd/>