

NOTES FROM RESEARCH

Will arming pilots help make air travel safer?

Airline pilot union wants the option to be armed

Optional to be armed, fully trained officers and checked (background)

- Called Federal flight deck officers

Main goal for airlines is safety

Risks with carrying weapons

Pilot immunity for crime (con)

Signed in to law in 2003 by Bush

Specific application and background check needed

No regulation for storage and removal of guns

Congress says yes – quote “Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) said in an interview with Fox News Wednesday that arming “100 percent” of American pilots is the most “cost-effective” way of preventing terrorist attacks similar to those that occurred on 9/11.”

-http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/04/10/rand-paul-guns-pilots_n_5125967.html

Before 1987, many pilots carried firearms

About 10% currently armed

Accidental discharge of gun, but pilot re-hired. Was putting it away

Possible deterrence for criminals/terrorists

Need time to complete training

Obama removing some funding

Federal air marshal funding cut as well

Training not strenuous enough

87,000 US flights per day, 3,500 air marshals

HOW TO ORGANIZE NOTES:

1. Create categories for paragraphs and copy and paste notes where they fit
2. Delete unnecessary pieces of information and find more to fill in gaps

What has been done so far:

Why:

Pros:

Cons:

http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/featured_articles/20020715monday.html

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/story?id=92434>

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0612/77449.html>

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/01/23/AR2007012301529.html>

THESIS

Non-example

An argumentative paper takes a position or makes an assertion or a claim and supports or justifies the position, assertion, or claim with reasons and evidence. An argumentative paper seeks to convince the reader that your position, assertion or claim is true. An argumentative thesis tells your reader what your argument is and what supporting evidence or reasons you will present. For example, “Smoking should be banned in all public places.”

Explanatory (Expository) Thesis Statement EXAMPLE

An explanatory paper explains or acquaints your reader with something (your topic). An explanatory thesis statement tells your reader what it is you will explain and what aspects or parts of the topic will be considered. For example, “Chinese labor played an important role in western railroad expansion.”

Will arming pilots help make air travel safer?

Answer your inquiry question without being persuasive!

Thesis: Arming pilots is a controversial issue, but one that could improve the safety of air travel in the USA.

Non-example: Pilots should be armed to make air travel safer.

Once you have your thesis statement, you can begin writing an introduction paragraph.

- Attention grabber (optional)
- Background to topic
- Thesis

DRAFT

Since the attacks on September 11, 2001 on the World Trade Center, Pentagon and possibly the White House, the U.S. government has amped up security for air travel. The government created the department of Homeland Security and increased levels of security at airports around the country. As a part of this movement, President Bush created the federal flight deck officer program to give pilots the option to be armed in the cockpit. **Arming pilots is a controversial issue, but one that could improve the safety of air travel in the USA.**

Pilots have joined the Federal flight deck officer program in order to bring firearms on their airplanes. The program includes rigorous background checks, application and training. About 10% of current U.S. commercial pilots are federal flight deck officers and carry firearms in the cockpit. They are only allowed to carry and use them on the aircraft when a threat occurs.

Those who support the program believe that arming pilots will make travel safer, as it will be a deterrent to criminals. That is, if criminals know that a pilot is armed, he/she may rethink their behavior. Also, the main goal for airlines has always been safety. One supporter, Senator Rand Paul said in an interview with Fox News, “that arming 100 percent of American pilots is the most cost-effective way of preventing terrorist attacks similar to those that occurred on 9/11.” (Ashtari). The ALPA or Airline Pilots Association supports the program to help protect both pilots and passengers. There is also a federal air marshal program which allows a trained passenger to carry a gun for the safety of others. However, there are only 3,500 air marshals and over 87,000 flights in the USA per day. With so few marshals, arming pilots would increase security.

However, some people do not support the arming of pilots because they feel that there is not enough regulation or restriction. Others believe that arming pilots could do more harm than good. For example, there is no clear protocol for storage of firearms or removal from the aircraft. A pilot accidentally discharged a gun on a plane when trying to put it away, but he was re-hired after the investigation found the event accidental. Pilots carrying guns could also result in pilots gaining immunity from crimes or using the guns when they deem necessary, not when there is an imminent threat to all passengers.

Even though people disagree over the issue of arming pilots, the law passed by Bush in 2003 remains a law and carrying a gun is still optional for pilots. Funding for this program has been cut dramatically in the past several years under president Obama. It remains to be seen if fewer pilots will receive training as a result of lower funding or if this program will continue to grow with pilot support. Air travel must be safe for all passengers and crew alike so that all can travel safely and comfortably without fear of attack.

Body paragraphs – use notes from each category for a paragraph

Conclusion – Restate main ideas, and explain why this matters to the world or society.

Bibliography – Use bibme.org to create MLA format and put at end of essay.

Bibliography:

Ashtari, (Huffington Post)