

Expository essay:

An expository essay "exposes" the reader to a new topic; it informs the reader with details, descriptions, or explanations of a subject. If you are writing an expository essay, your thesis statement should explain to the reader what he or she will learn in your essay.

Exposition uses all of the common organizational patterns such as definition, analysis, classification, cause and effect. Indeed, As one of the four traditional modes of discourse, expository writing may include elements of narration, description, and argumentation, but unlike creative writing or persuasive writing, its primary goal is to deliver information about an issue, subject, method, or idea.

Alexander Bain is believed to have been the first to identify this mode of discourse in *English Composition and Rhetoric* (American edition, New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1890)."

(Linda Woodson, "Exposition." *A Handbook of Modern Rhetorical Terms*. NCTE, 1979)

Thesis statement examples for Expository Essays

1. Eggs contain many of the ingredients that your body needs for good health.
2. The rewarding process of photographing a lunar eclipse requires careful preparation and sound equipment.
3. The Mesa Verde National Park reveals the fascinating culture of the Ancestral Puebloans who lived on the land for more than seven hundred years.
4. The Spanish Inquisition is characterized by religious persecution that was often carried out with extreme cruelty.

You can see how the statements above provide a statement of fact about topic (not just opinion), but this statement leaves the door open for you to elaborate with lots of details. The good thesis statement in an expository essay leaves the reader wanting more details!

Examples:

A Boring Essay About Boredom

How many times have you been listening to a completely dull university or college lecture? How often did you have to communicate with people who were not interesting to you at all? Do you have to do something that makes you fall asleep any time you think of it? If yes, then you might think that you know everything about boredom, as this is the actual feeling you experience in the cases similar to those mentioned above. But what if you were told that boredom is not that simple and dull as it seems at the first glance? Boredom is a curious emotion, which can manifest itself in multiple ways, and affects a person either in a constructive way, or can be devastating when completing activities.

Though everybody thinks they know what boredom is, giving a definition of it can be a challenging task. Russian classic writer Leo Tolstoy had called boredom “a desire for desires,” which is rather close but not scientific. For a more precise definition, we can refer to the research led by York University professor John Eastwood, who defined boredom as “an aversive state of wanting, but being unable to engage in satisfying activity” (Health24). According to his study, there are three basic components of this feeling, and all of them are related to attention. To feel bored, you must experience difficulties in paying attention to internal (your feelings, thoughts) or external information; if you are aware of your inability to focus, and blame the environment for this – claiming, for instance, that your work is boring, or that a person you talk to is dull – then boredom is guaranteed.

Boredom occurs when you have to perform monotonous or repeated actions; after a while, you usually turn on your inner “auto-pilot,” which frees your mind from contemplation, thinking, and other mental activity. This is why sportsmen, for example, never feel bored while performing their activities – they are consumed by their tasks, focused entirely on what they do every single moment. They just do not have a choice; otherwise, they will receive trauma or even die. Or, can you imagine a soldier who would feel bored during gunfire? Or a businessmen who would feel bored while persuading his potential partners to make an agreement with his company?

Surprisingly, boredom can be diverse. Research conducted by Thomas Goetz of the University of Konstanz, and the Thurgau University of Teacher Education in Konstanz, proved that people can feel different types of boredom. In his study, Goetz examined students who often experienced the feeling of boredom; in result, Goetz distinguished five types of boredom: indifferent, calibrating, searching, reactant, and apathetic (National Geographic).

Indifferent boredom is what Goetz also called “a pleasant form” of boredom; the brightest example of it would be relaxing on a couch watching a not very interesting baseball game. Calibrating boredom means having your mind opened to new ideas, but without any motivation to implement them; searching boredom, on the contrary, makes a person highly motivated to find a more exciting activity than the one they are involved in the current moment. Reactant boredom rises within you when you cannot change the circumstances causing it – be it a lecture or a dull task at work. Finally, apathetic boredom, which is characterized by the absence of motivation and new ideas, is rather close to depression, and may have far more negative consequences than other types.

As for the ways of coping with boredom, it is rather transparent. Finding new interests and hobbies, physical activities and extreme sports, as well as simple physical exercise and mindfulness are still considered some of the most effective means of reducing boredom (HowStuffWorks).

The latest research shows that boredom is to a significant extent connected to attention; while being defined as a state of wanting, it is also being unable to engage in a satisfying activity. Boredom is considered to have three conditions of development: an inability to focus, being aware of this inability, and blaming the environment on it. At the same time, researchers distinguish five types of boredom, which can have either constructive or negative effects on an individual: indifferent, calibrating, searching, reactant, and apathetic. The latter is close to depression, and is a rather dangerous phenomenon.

References

“The Root Cause of Boredom.” Health24. N.p., n.d. Web. 28 Nov. 2013. .

Andreassi, Katia. "The Most Boring Article You'll Read Today." National Geographic. National Geographic Society, 21 Nov. 2013. Web. 28 Nov. 2013. .

"Can You Die of Boredom?" HowStuffWorks. N.p., n.d. Web. 28 Nov. 2013. .

The Phenomenon of Women's Bodybuilding

Muscular women cannot be considered a new phenomenon. Ancient myths tell us about the Amazons – female warriors who had inhabited the wilderness and who used to kill every male child that was born in their community. They were known as perfect fighters and archers; in order to be capable of competing with men in war skills and physical strength, Amazons possessed strong and trained bodies. In reality, however, one could hardly run into a muscular woman, at least until the beginning of the 19th century, when big, strong women demonstrating wonders of physical strength could be seen almost in any circus (Muscle Insider). Still, muscular women remained an exotic rarity.

As time passed, the situation began to change significantly. Bodybuilding had remained exclusively a male sport until year 1977, when Henry McGhee, an employee of the Downtown Canton YMCA, introduced his idea that women should share the opportunity to display their physical abilities the way men had done for years. He had created the United States Women's Bodybuilding Association, and though it did not last long, women across the country took notice (Muscle Insider). In 1980, Rachel McLish won the first Ms. Olympia contest, and can be considered the start to the spreading of female bodybuilding around the world.

Today, you still can walk down the street without running even into a single female bodybuilder, though the phenomenon of feminine physique has gained a significant popularity. Bodybuilding is a way for certain women to express themselves and, perhaps, demonstrate and assure their equality with men in terms of physical capabilities. Unfortunately, loads taken on that are naturally not typical for the female human body can result into severe health problems.

Among the most common problems that female bodybuilders face regularly is

amenorrhea, which is an absence of menstrual periods. This happens due to intense exercises and low body fat levels, or exercise-related hormones. Also, female bodybuilders have developed a new kind of eating disorder, usually called EDBT (eating disorder, bodybuilder type). This disorder is characterized by high-protein, high calorie, and low-fat diets, which are consumed in certain periods and sequences during the day. The disorder appears in a women's fear to eat food if the precise caloric intake of meals is unknown. Besides, the wide use of steroids, without which none can gain such impressive muscular mass as bodybuilders usually do, increases the levels of testosterone in their bodies. As a result, a woman's voice tone lowers, facial hair appears, their figure becomes more masculine, and the jaw becomes squared. In addition, a woman starts to experience male pattern baldness and changes in their reproductive system, and her breasts decrease in size (LiveStrong).

Though today no one prohibits women from doing bodybuilding, this type of physical activity causes severe physiological and aesthetic changes in the human female body. A woman starts to look more like a man, and experiences serious problems, mostly concerning the reproductive system. Also, some female bodybuilders experience an eating disorder that holds them from eating when the precise caloric intake of a meal is unknown. It is difficult to tell whether bodybuilding is or is not an occupation for women, but it definitely affects their appearance as being attractive to the opposite sex.

References

Dobbins, Bill. "The History & Evolution Of Women's Bodybuilding." Muscle Insider. N.p., 12 Mar. 2013. Web. 05 Aug. 2013.
<<http://muscle-insider.com/features/history-evolution-womens-bodybuilding>>.

Divaris, Catherine. "Health Effects of Female Bodybuilding." Livestrong.com. N.p., 9 July 2011. Web. 05 Aug. 2013.
<<http://www.livestrong.com/article/466886-health-effects-of-female-bodybuilding/>>.

The Genius of Stephen Hawking

Astronomy (and astrophysics) has been continually connected directly to the world's mysteries that have intrigued humanity throughout history. Before the advent of modern physics, people were offered dogmatic religious explanations of the Universe's structure; however, such scientists as Galileo or Newton had completely changed the way the world had usually been perceived. Since their discoveries were made, the picture of the world we live in became more complicated, so that today it can be almost entirely understood perhaps only by scientists. Fortunately, there are people who make knowledge about the Universe accessible for everybody who want to learn more about it. Such people are geniuses, as they often manage to explain phenomenally difficult concepts in accessible language; one such person is Stephen Hawking—a great scientist and a great personality.

Stephen Hawking, a mastermind in physics, astrophysics, and other complicated branches of science that I have no idea about, was born in 1942. Surprisingly, at school the future genius had not been a brilliant student—his academic successes back then were rather mediocre (HowStuffWorks). However, when it came to entering a university, young Hawking had displayed a perfect score in physics, which had won him an Oxford scholarship. University professors had also recognized him as an insufficiently diligent student; however, he received a first-class honors degree in Oxford, and started his graduate work in Cambridge (Special Education Degrees).

As a student, despite of being a member of a rowing team in Oxford, Hawking experienced increasing clumsiness and problems with controlling his body. Those were the first symptoms of a disease that later would change his life—amyotrophic lateral sclerosis—which has made him almost completely paralyzed. Despite all the difficulties that the disease had caused him, Hawking did not give up; moreover, throughout his life he did more than a regular healthy person would do.

What is the most fascinating aspect about Stephen Hawking is his will power. Honestly, how many people would have not given up if they were diagnosed with ALS? However, Hawking not only continued his scientific work (despite being given just a few years to live when he was 21), but accomplished a number of great tasks, and made an invaluable contribution to science.

Stephen Hawking wrote a number of world-famous books, which is already remarkable for a person who can only communicate with others with the help of a voice modulator. Besides, these books are dedicated to the most complicated problems that science (cosmology, in particular) has ever faced; however, Hawking managed to explain them (or at least bring the readers up to date) in simple words, with his own style and sophisticated humor.

Stephen Hawking, regardless of his circumstances, manages to live a more fulfilled life than people usually do. He is the director of research at the Cambridge Center for Theoretical Cosmology. He is the author of numerous bright theories. He has floated in zero gravity and hopes to fly to space (Biography.com). He is a married man and a father. But most of all, he is a scientist recognized worldwide. He has refuted the image of a scientist as a bookworm delved into calculations and formulas; on the contrary, his personality, humor, books, and participation in different popular projects, such as “The Simpsons” (where he acted as himself) or “Into the Universe With Stephen Hawking,” have shown the world that science can be popular.

References

McGrath, Jane. “10 Cool Things You Didn’t Know About Stephen Hawking.” HowStuffWorks. HowStuffWorks.com, 30 June 2010. Web. 01 Apr. 2014. <<http://science.howstuffworks.com/dictionary/famous-scientists/physicists/10-cool-things-stephen-hawking.htm>>.

“Stephen Hawking Biography.” Bio.com. A&E Networks Television, n.d. Web. 02 Apr. 2014. <<http://www.biography.com/people/stephen-hawking-9331710?page=3>>.

“Special Education Degrees.” Special Education Degrees. N.p., n.d. Web. 02 Apr. 2014. <<http://www.special-education-degree.net/stephen-hawking/>>.

Do Curfews Keep Teens Out Of Trouble?

The teenage years of an individual is marked by starting to overestimate their

values, experience a shift in their outlooks, and a tendency to act rebellious. It can also be a time when someone becomes excessively vulnerable to negative influences, and is magnetized towards dangerous situations. On the other hand, for parents the period of their children's adolescence means regular worrying about their safety and formation in society. Thus, a method of ensuring teenagers' security is needed, and curfews are often seen as such a measure, since they have proved their efficiency a number of times. At the same time, certain peculiarities exist about establishing curfews for children.

The issue of teenage curfews is widely debated in the United States, where this institution is still rather popular, and in European democracies, where this measure is yet not so widely used. The first and foremost reason for establishing curfews is children's security. Typical curfews require that teenagers under 17 years stay out of streets starting from 11pm or midnight. This is believed to protect them from crimes committed after nightfall, as well as from violating the law, and there exist serious evidence in favor of this conviction. For example, when New Orleans enabled a dusk-till-dawn curfew in 1994, the rates of juvenile crime were reported to fall more than 20 percent. Even more impressive results were recorded in Dallas, which reported a 30 percent decrease in violent juvenile crime, and a 21 percent decrease in the overall rates of crimes committed by young people (The New York Times).

On the other hand, curfews as a preventive measure which infringes on the rights of young people, limiting their freedom. This thesis is particularly supported by the fact that curfew violations and the respective charges are among the most often committed juvenile crimes in the United States. In addition, there were reports claiming that police arrested more non-white teenagers for curfew violations. All this can cause a teenager to believe that they have crossed a psychological line dividing them from criminals; thus, such teenagers may start to see themselves as outlaws, which can contribute to committing more serious crimes than curfew offense (Scribd).

What is important for a parent to remember when establishing a curfew for their children is that a teenager's misjudged perception of certain rules may cause them to act on the so-called anti-scenario, or misbehave in some other way; this is proved by research conducted by the University of Minnesota,

according to which teens tend to bristle against what they see as unfair (Global Post). Considering this, parents should avoid the authoritarian style of establishing curfews; instead, they should have a conversation with their teenager that would be aimed at finding optimal conditions for a curfew – that would satisfy both sides. Also, flexible curfews (those which consider teens' interests) tend to be more effective than rigid agreements.

The enabling of teenage curfews is among the most debated issues in the United States and in democratic Europe. The first and foremost task of teenage curfews is to ensure teenagers' security. States which have enabled curfews (such as Dallas or New Orleans) report decreases in juvenile crime rates. However, curfew opponents claim that this preventive measure infringes on the rights and freedoms of young people; besides, arresting teenagers for curfew violations can propel them to see themselves as outlaws, which can cause them to commit more serious crimes in future. For curfews to be the most effective, parents should avoid acting as an authoritarian; on the contrary, they should develop and discuss the curfew conditions together with their children in a diplomatic way.

References

“Curfews and Common Sense.” The New York Times. The New York Times, 11 June 1996. Web. 16 Dec. 2013.

<<http://www.nytimes.com/1996/06/11/opinion/curfews-and-common-sense.html>>.

“The Benefits of Teenage Curfew Laws.” Scribd. N.p., n.d. Web. 16 Dec. 2013. <<http://www.scribd.com/doc/31337943/The-Benefits-of-Teenage-Curfew-Laws>>

“The Effects of Teen Curfews.” Everyday Life. N.p., n.d. Web. 16 Dec. 2013. <<http://everydaylife.globalpost.com/effects-teen-curfews-2061.html>>.

The Advent of Cloud Computing Technologies

Beginning from the invention of the centralized server and ending up with

revolutionary exploitations of multi-nodal online connections for data management and program processing, the future of computing has evolved out of a network-based model. As businesses actively pursue efficiency and cost reduction throughout their systems and operational framework, the intrinsic value of a flexible, dynamic, and intuitive computing platform has become significant. At the core of such evolving priorities, additional considerations regarding security, integration, and consistency are directly influencing the nature and architecture of the future computing environment. For developers, the introduction of cloud computing not only represented a formal departure from the expensive, bulky, and oftentimes technically prohibitive servers employed for business management, but it prescribed a robust paradigm shift towards systems architecture that was much more flexible and dynamic. For this reason, the introduction of cloud computing is arguably one of the most significant and influential innovations in computing and networking in the past three decades.

At the foundation of the cloud computing model, developers have actively pursued a mixture of systems and services which computing specialist Michael Armbrust et al. (2010) describes as an internet-based, comprehensive computing solution. Due to the elimination of the need for separate system architecture and hardware, businesses are now able to utilize the resources of service providers, reorienting the purpose of computing towards goal acquisition and task completion, as opposed to systems manipulation and software management. As this innovative resource continues to expand in diversity, accessibility, and functionality, Armbrust et al. (2010) posit that the resolution of scalar challenges (e.g. software needs, infrastructure demands, hardware consistency) will result in radical new capabilities that are far beyond the scope of the current cloud-based model.

The value of cloud computing is extensive, especially considering the mobility agenda of the modern generation and the capabilities and expectations associated with new mobile technologies. In critical analysis of the underlying needs associated with the 'mobile cloud,' Professor Niroshinie Fernando et al. (2013) reflect on multiple exchange-based scenarios, whereby cloud computing is an essential conduit for resource accessibility, sharing, and interactive applications. With new systems now operating off of distributed

infrastructure, the ability to extend internal connectivity across an entire framework of interconnected devices and access ports is quickly revising the concept of mobility in computing operations (Fernando et al., 2013). In fact, the speed of advances in this field is signaling a significant shift away from localized memory and hardware requirements towards computing capabilities that are entirely built upon external architecture (Armbrust et al., 2010).

Although much of the vision of cloud computing is based upon mobility and the portability of information resources, Professor Sean Marston et al. (2011) propose that there are explicit business-based opportunities and advantages that must be identified and integrated into this system before widespread adoption can take place. Researchers introduce a variety of contributory and inhibitory measures that will most likely influence the design and purposing of these systems, ranging from regulatory oversights to market-based initiatives (e.g. strategic partnerships between computing firms) (Marston et al., 2011). Ultimately, it is the inability to adequately predict the exact dynamics associated with these diverse, online environments that has led to such diverse, multi-faceted academic analysis in this field.

A broad spectrum of 20th century inventions and advances had a direct influence on the behavior and practices of modern society; however, it was the advent of cloud computing which served to rehabilitate a hardware-based paradigm and introduce the capabilities associated with multi-dimensional, multi-network computing. For businesses, the opportunities underlying cloud computing are significant and will substantially reduce inefficiencies and expenses stemming from hardware purchases and upgrades. For society in general, the mobility solutions afforded by cloud computing offer a much more robust platform for interconnectivity, sharing, and productivity. Ultimately, it will be the subsequent century of testing, revision, and adoption that will determine the true value of cloud computing; however, to date, it is evident that this technology is a catalyst for revising the nature and concept of computing in its entirety.

References

Armbrust, M., Fox, A., Griffith, R., Joseph, A.D., Katz, R., Konwinski, A., Lee,

G., Patterson, D., Rabkin, A., Stoica, I., Zaharia, M. (2010). A view of cloud computing. *Communications of the ACM*, 53(4), 50-58.

Fernando, N., Loke, S.W., Rahayu, W. (2013). Mobile cloud computing: A survey. *Future Generation Computer Systems*, 29, 84-106.

Marston, S., Li, Z., Bandyopadhyay, S., Zhang, J., Ghalsasi, A. (2011). Cloud computing—The business perspective. *Decision Support Systems*, 51, 176-189.

A Person I Admire

According to my observations, when people are being asked about persons they admire, they usually name rather famous figures: politicians, scientists, celebrities, and so on. This is easily explained, as people who do not possess certain bright traits and qualities, which are usually valued in society, do not become renowned or popular, neither do they make significant achievements. However, the opposite is true as well: even those who possess bright personalities do not necessarily become famous. We tend to forget about the fact that outstanding people worth admiring are everywhere around us. To break out of the trend of laying laurels on celebrities, I would like to talk about my best friend, whom I admire.

His name is David, and he comes from a family of Georgian refugees, who escaped the country when a civil war broke out there in 1991. He was a small child back then, but he says he can remember tanks driving through the main streets of his hometown. For a couple of years David's family resided in Eastern Europe, and then managed to move across the Atlantic Ocean and settle in the United States, in New York, where I met him while studying in high school.

Perhaps his most protuberant quality is his erudition, formed by his passion for studying. I do not know any other person – at least among people I am surrounded with – who would have such diverse knowledge in numerous fields. David would be reading literature on history, physics, political science, economy, cultural studies just because he was interested in it, not because this

was an assignment given to him by his university professors. A couple of years ago he became extremely interested in Arabian culture, and this interest resulted in a deep research in this field. He studied the history of the Middle East from Sumer and Babylon and to the modern days, and in my opinion he now can be considered a bright specialist in this subject. Now he works with Middle East diplomatic delegations, participates in conferences, and I am sure this is the work he really enjoys.

David has a natural inclination for studying foreign languages. I do not know how he studied English; he speaks it fluently and almost without accent. Except Georgian and English, David also speaks Arabic, Spanish, Russian, and Hebrew. His language skills allow David to make friends and maintain correspondence with numerous people around the world; besides, they are extremely valuable to his work. It was his goal to become a polyglot, and he reached it by his own efforts: all the foreign languages he knows David has studied himself. This speaks in favor of such qualities as discipline, persistence, and a sense of purpose.

David is a person who can be called selfless. Though I do not know whether it is for good or bad for him, David will always try to help his friends, relatives, and acquaintances (and often even unfamiliar people), even if ruins his own plans. Combined with David's sense of responsibility, this makes him a reliable person, who can be always counted on. However, this trait of his is so convex that many unscrupulous individuals – be it colleagues or relatives – use David in their own goals, addressing him for help much more often than it is proper and using his inability to refuse requests.

My best friend David is not a publicly-recognized person. He is not a celebrity, he has not made significant scientific discoveries, written a book, or influenced the life of a country. If you see him in the streets you will probably never guess that you see a man of a great intelligence, willpower, and dignity, and simply pass him by. But if you knew David as well as I do, you would admire his personality as well for sure. We are no longer students, and our lives now intersect more rarely than we would both want. But our families are friends, and I think this is a friendship that will never grow dim.

The Origins of Halloween

Like Christmas, New Year's Day, Ramadan, or Yom Kippur, Halloween is celebrated almost in every country, even if the celebration implies only external attributes, such as pumpkins, costumes, and children asking for candies. Though the initial meaning of Halloween had a lot to do with occult powers, spirits, and protection against evil forces, today it is more of a merry holiday, a little bit spooky, but still enjoyed both by adults and children. So, what are the origins of Halloween?

Historically, the word Halloween is a contraction from the phrase "All Hallows Even," which meant the day before All Hallows Day (more known as All Saints' Day) (About.com). It was a Catholic holiday dedicated to the commemoration of saints and martyrs for faith; today, though, we know it more as a holiday of trick-or-treating, scary costumes and entourage, and funny pranks. Gradually, Halloween has lost its religious connotations, and has turned into a holiday gladly celebrated by youth and adults across the Western world on October 31.

Though it is considered that Halloween has its origins in the early Middle Ages, some scientists think that it is even more ancient. Peter Tokofsky, an assistant professor in the department of folklore and mythology of UCLA, believes that Halloween as we know it today arose from the Celtic festival Samhain (Albany.edu). Samhain was demarcating the end of summer; on this day souls of the dead were believed to be penetrating the real world. This was also the Celtic New Year, and druids used to celebrate it with a great fire festival, to 'support' the dimming Sun and not to let it vanish.

It was believed that during Samhain the living were entertaining the dead; on that night, spirits were looking for a body to possess for the entire incoming year. To avoid such destiny, people would dress up like evil spirits themselves; scary masks or masks of animals were used to mimic these spirits and deceive them, thus avoiding being possessed. Most likely, this rite has given a start to a modern tradition to wear costumes of ghosts and witches on Halloween.

Later, Samhain was influenced by Roman and Christian cultures; after Pope

Gregory III designated November 1 as a time to honor all saints and martyrs (History.com). Halloween gradually started to gain its modern features and characteristics. Though Halloween today is seen more as an American holiday, it was transported to North America by Irish immigrants in the middle 1800's (About.com). There it became to a significant extent commercialized and popularized, and its religious background has been almost forgotten; at the same time, back on the lands where Samhain originated, even in 19th century, people were afraid to walk outside after nightfall.

Along with Christmas, the New Year's Day, and other grand holidays, Halloween is one of the most ancient and mysterious festivals, which has its origins in long forgotten pagan beliefs and rituals. As it happened to the majority of these holidays, Halloween's religious connotations are today known by few; nowadays it is celebrated more for fun. But, despite of this, an attentive and curious researcher will easily trace the spirit of hoary rites and customs in modern trick-or-treating, cosplay, and symbols.

References

Emery, David. "A Quick Guide to the Origin & History of Halloween." About.com. N.p., n.d. Web. 14 Oct. 2013. <<http://urbanlegends.about.com/od/halloween/a/History-Of-Halloween.htm>>.

"The Origins of Halloween." Albany.edu. N.p., n.d. Web. 14 Oct. 2013. <<http://www.albany.edu/~dp1252/isp523/halloween.html>>.

"Halloween." History.com. A&E Television Networks, n.d. Web. 14 Oct. 2013. <<http://www.history.com/topics/halloween>>.

Terrorism

Terrorism is defined as the "use of violence and intimidation in the pursuit of political aims" (Oxford, 2010). There is a phenomenon of ruthless individuals sharing radical political ideologies that seek to cause harm to others for achieving their goals. Thus, it is important to enact appropriate measures to counteract these intended detrimental actions. Among the possible strategies offered to fight terrorism are to ensure prosecution, freeze funds of people and organizations that are suspected to be involved in terroristic activities, and to protect vulnerable targets.

Terrorists cannot continue their actions if they are prosecuted and detained. Grounds for criminal prosecution include UN Security Council resolutions and outstanding U.S. indictments (Scheffer, 2001). Circumstances surrounding the attempted use of these grounds to prosecute terrorist activities are not always favorable. For example, “The Cuban government continued to permit fugitives wanted in the United States to reside ... And also provided support, such as housing, food ration books, and medical care for these individuals” (Country Reports on Terrorism, 2001). While proclaiming to be a country that is anti-terroristic, the Cuban government continues to provide a safe haven for terrorists, and does not cooperate with the U.S. Ensuring prosecution of these individuals by encouraging safe-haven countries to cooperate is key strategy in fighting terrorism.

A substantial amount of funds is required to fuel terrorism. Often this money comes from the sale of illegal drugs, weapons, or even slaves. This money is used to “...pay for the training camps, recruitment, conventional and unconventional weapons, travel, safe houses, propaganda...” (Ehrenfeld, 2002). In order to douse this fuel, such strategies as freezing funds should be implemented. Usually, funds received from illegal activities not only take up too much space, but are also far too heavy to transport in the form of physical bills. This is the reason why funds are transferred digitally through international bank accounts. If terrorist leaders’ accounts would be frozen, terroristic organizations would no longer have the essential resources to perform terroristic acts. Encouraging countries to set up proper tracking within banking systems is a vital step towards eliminating terrorism.

To diminish terrorism, proper protection of vulnerable targets should be taken into consideration. According to the UN, upon request, “INTERPOL will assist member countries seeking either to develop protection strategies or enhance established strategies by securing suitable assistance...” (Working Group on Strengthening the Protection of Vulnerable Targets, 2010), which means establishing protection over valuable potential targets of terroristic attacks. This measure is a smart step, but there is still much work to do to expand it worldwide, as not every country in the world is a member of this protective program. The UN should create a special international council which would work on developing protection strategies. Protecting vulnerable targets must remain a top priority for each country in the world.

Terrorism is an unpredictable and volatile phenomenon which possesses a threat to the natural human right to live without fear. It is a tool of intimidation, aimed to achieve political goals and to impose propaganda. Ensuring prosecution, freezing funds of terroristic organizations, and protecting vulnerable targets, combined together, are essential strategies to fight terrorism.

References

“Terrorism.” Oxford Dictionaries. April 2010. Oxford Dictionaries. April 2010. Oxford University Press.
http://oxforddictionaries.com/definition/american_english/terrorism (accessed March 09, 2013).

“Options for Prosecuting International Terrorists”. United States Institute of Peace. November 2001. <http://www.usip.org/publications/options-prosecuting-international-terrorists> (accessed March 09, 2013).

“Country Reports on Terrorism 2011”. United States Department of State. July 31, 2012. <http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2011/195547.htm> (accessed March 09, 2013).

“Confronting Terrorism”. Rachel Ehrenfeld. March 2002. Los Alamos National Laboratory. 2002. <http://library.lanl.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc?event=CT2002&document=30> (accessed March 09, 2013).

“Working Group on Strengthening the Protection of Vulnerable Targets”. United Nations. 2010. http://www.un.org/en/terrorism/ctitf/wg_vulnerabletargets.shtml (accessed March 09, 2013).