

Persuasive Writing



Level 8

Spartan Government: a Persuasive Essay by Jack Mertens

Sparta, a Greek city state of the ancient world, had a totalitarian system of government that was strong, good for the majority, and stable. Today I will prove this to the reader in three laconic points: because it allowed them to remain militant and act as one, because it was good for the greater part of the Spartans, and because they were even allowed a say in the governmental affairs.

First, the Spartans totalitarian government allowed them to remain militant. The government controlled everything about their subjects and thus the nation was strong, fit, and stable. For example, when a baby was born, it was brought before the elders of Sparta and they decided whether it lived or died based on its health and physical condition. At the age of eight, all children were handed over to the government or local barracks to begin training. They were educated till they were twenty, and by thirty they had full privileges in Spartan society. One flaw in this form of government was that it was entirely militant. Music, writing, and the arts were not practiced at all in this city-state.

Next, the Spartan governmental structure was good for the majority of the citizens. The populace was equal, rich or poor. They ate the same food and drank the same drink. They lived in the same conditions (the barracks) as well. This equality kept all the citizens happy and maintained a stable realm.

Lastly, they had unusual governmental freedoms compared with other totalitarian nations. Spartan citizens could attend governmental assemblies, express their opinions, and vote on various issues. They were even allowed to elect the ephors (advisors to the duo of rulers) and elders (people who took care of administrative affairs.)

It is good to admit flaws, but then counter them. For instance, while the arts would have been wonderful, the life of Spartans was difficult. They had to be trained and ready for whatever happened, leaving little time for music or art.

It would help the writer's cause if the facts were backed up with quotes examples. The first body paragraph has a very fitting example. More of this would help persuade the reader.



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Despite the draconic way in which they ruled the lives of their people, Sparta's well made totalitarian form of government was strong, good for the majority, and stable. One can see this in the way they maintained a militant society, in the equality of their subjects, and in the unusual freedom allowed by their totalitarian civilization.

This is a good conclusion, though sparse.