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Writing Assignment # 10 pages 328-331

Honors English 120 – Critical Writing

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**Critiquing: “A Proposal to Provide Tips for Hosts at Stone’s End”**

Question #1: In your own words, summarize briefly the problem that Laurel Wilson addresses, her proposed solution, and her justifying reasons.

1. Laurel addresses the issue of the “no tips” policy for hosts at the Stone’s End Restaurant chains. She first states her stance on the issue. Laurel does this by pointing out that the lack of tips and the rule that expensive dressy clothes are to be worn during all shifts, lead to feelings of financial stress and unappreciation for the hosts. Laurel anticipates that the CEO audience may have a higher corporate reason for the “no tips” policy and may require the fancy clothing in order to create customer appeal to the restaurant’s atmosphere. However, Laurel refutes these objections by saying that the “no tips” policy creates an unhappy hosting staff, which is bad for the restaurant, and that other establishments give a clothing allowance to their employees to help with the added expense. Laurel also anticipates objections to her actual proposal. Her proposal is that the restaurant’s hosts should receive 1% of the server’s tip money from the shifts that they work. She suggests that maybe her CEO audience would bring up the fact that sometimes servers have really slow nights where not much tip money is made. The servers also rely on their tip money to make a living, so taking an extra 1% from it would cause harm. Laurel mathematically figures that on average the percentage given to the hosts will only take one dollar from each server on duty, which does not seem to cause much harm. She also continues by saying that even on such slow nights, the servers still make on average more than $7 over what the hosts would earn. Laurel concludes her proposal argument by using the convincing statement “I believe that corporate owners would be highly pleased with the all-around benefits of having happy hosts.” This sentence serves as a persuasive call-to-action for her CEO audience because it brings up the realization that it should be a concern for the head of any restaurant chain if his or her workers are unhappy on the job.

Question # 2: Laurel addresses her proposal to the CEO of Stone’s End restaurants because the CEO has the power to change the policy. To what extent does Laurel develop audience-based reasons for this CEO audience? How effectively does she anticipate and respond to objections her audience might raise?

1. Laurel was very conscious of her audience while writing this proposal. She took into account ways to persuade her audience into listening to her point of view and her suggestion to solve the issue at hand. She fully addresses her concerns for the hosts, having been one and experienced the “hardships.” She follows by stating reasons that her CEO audience may have against her proposal and refuting each point. They are fully explained in the summary above. Personally, I could not think of any more possible objections, so I believe that she was effective in her rebuttal. I also think that she creates a rather persuasive proposal to her CEO audience.

Question # 3: How does Laurel establish a positive *ethos* in this argument and a meaningful picture of the problem?

1. Laurel establishes *ethos* in this argument because she admits that she was once a server in a Stone’s End Restaurant. Laurel forms a positive light on her *ethos* by writing her argument in a proposal form. This form makes sure that she is not simply complaining about an issue, but she is showing the company how they could fix this issue in a meaningful and logical way. Also, this form of argument does not put complete force on the company to change things, but rather it makes a suggestion in a dignified manner. Laurel is viewed to have this positive *ethos* because of her maturity in creating the proposal and the professional way in which she sincerely states her concern for the hosts of the restaurant chain.

Question # 4: How effective is Laurel’s proposal?

1. I believe that Laurel’s proposal is fairly effective. Because Laurel previously worked at a Stone’s End and has worked at other restaurant establishments since then, she is very knowledgeable when comparing the policies and estimated wages that each member of the “restaurant team” are paid. Therefore, her argument seems to be reasonable and valid to the reader. Also, because she takes the time to rebut opposing views, it shows that she is prepared and understands that others may have a different view of the issue than her own. It is for these reasons and her positively established *ethos* that her proposal is so effective.