Short writing task

Name

Institution

Date

Should the United States reduce its military budget?

**Describe the debate**

The debate on whether the United States should reduce its military budget is a very sensitive topic. Those who believe the military budget should be reduced and argue the extra money allocated to other areas such as education and healthcare. However, those who do not support reducing the military budget argue that the United States faces immense security threat from terrorists and nations like North Korea and Russia, hence the need to have a strong army. According to an article by U.S. News, “Are Cuts to the Defense Budget Necessary?”, the U.S. needs to cut its military spending in order to avoid increasing its debt which stands at over $15 trillion. Bob Burnett in his article, “Why We Should Reduce the Defense Budget”, says that the global trends are likely to change in the future with China alone predicted to have the largest economy. The United States government should therefore be prepared for this through reducing its defense expenditure. However, Burnett says that the budget should be reduced gradually so as not to expose the nation to external threats. Here, we see Burnett agreeing with the rhetoric of the U.S. News viewpoint of the U.S. reducing its military expenditure but proposes a way of reducing the budget that is different to that of the U.S.News article.

**Rhetorical description of viewpoints**

Rhetoric is very important in analyzing the views of the U.S. News and Burnett’s articles on why the United States needs to reduce its military expenditure. In this paper, I believe that the ethos, pathos and logos will be more ideal to use since it requires facts and people’s opinions. However, people’s opinions used must be of individuals who are well respected in the society such as researchers, public officials, former and current leaders and writers. Hindi & Boscolo (2006, pg.29) says that there is need for writers to take into consideration the needs of audience. Here, writers are supposed to ensure they emotionally appeal to their audience. In addition, they are not supposed to exaggerate their claims, hence the need to be logic in their writings. Based on these aspects, this paper will have to employ logos, pathos and ethos as it is aimed at convincing people that there is need to cut the military budget.

**Why this debate would appeal to an academic interested in rhetoric**

This essay is going to draw research from various researchers who have weighed in the discussion of whether the United States should reduce its military budget. The debate comes at a time when the U.S. is facing more threats from terrorism and other nations such as North Korea than before. The essay is going to draw on recent studies on this topic and the several debates which have been conducted on this topic. This is because this issue is very critical with both supporters and those opposing having valid arguments for their stands. These aspects clearly show that the essay is going to be an interesting presentation of rhetoric actions in crucial national debates. The reason behind this notion is that the research will focus on an important national issue, hence the need to employ effective and appropriate rhetoric devices to convince the audience. Failure to employ effective rhetoric devices is likely to make the argument invalid and its claims fallacious.

References

Burnett, B. (2011). Why We Should Reduce the Defense Budget. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/bob-burnett/why-we-should-reduce-the- \_b\_3115515.html.

Hidi, S., & Boscolo, P. (2006). *Writing and motivation*. Amsterdam: Elsevier.

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