Write a short argument essay (500-1000 words) for the following topic. Remember our in-class discussions and the following when writing your paper:

- Follow the normal steps of the writing process: think, select, organize, draft, revise, and proofread. Skipping steps or completing them out of order will usually result in a poor essay.

- When revising and proofreading, be sure to check for
  - basic errors (fragments, comma splices, fused sentences, subject-verb agreement, weak word choices, misspellings, punctuation errors, etc.)
  - variety (word choice and sentence types)
  - logic and coherence (Have you put yourself in the reader's place and asked, “Would this be perfectly clear if I was reading it for the first time?” Note that logic and reasoning are inherently important when writing argument and persuasion.)

- State your purpose clearly in your introduction and before your thesis statement (to give the thesis statement adequate context for the reader). Remember that your thesis statement should clearly establish your position on the issue (to guide the reader’s reasonable expectations for the body of your essay).

- If it seems appropriate, you may wish to explain the approach you have taken to solving this problem (or reaching this decision) in your introduction or in a separate paragraph early in your essay’s body. This is not necessary if you feel your problem-solving approach is obvious or clearly implied by the way in which you are presenting your conclusions and the reasoning behind them. If you provide this explanation, be certain that your paper’s progression follows your stated methodology. (In other words, be sure you actually do what you say you are going to do.)

- Your only source of information is what is provided in this assignment; you may not make up any details or characteristics for any candidate. However, you may make reasonable inferences from the information provided.

- Clearly and completely explain any evidence upon which you base your conclusion(s). If you make or use any assumptions, clearly state them as such and explain how they impacted your analysis or conclusion(s).

- If there are alternative conclusions that could be reasonably based on the same evidence or different, yet reasonable assumptions, or if any of your assumptions could be reasonably questioned, devote a small portion of your essay’s body to acknowledging those alternate views and explaining why you disagree with them. (After all, there must be some reason(s) that you were not swayed by these other possibilities.) Remember that the basic model for this type of analysis and essay can apportion as much as one-third of the body for this purpose and can strengthen your argument by showing the reader that you have fully considered the problem and made a logical and reasonable selection from among several possible, adequately considered solutions.

- Remember that critical analysis problems (like this one) rarely have a single solution; there is not usually just one conclusion or just one way to solve the problem. You must present your position to the reader and establish it as logical, adequate, acceptable, and reasonable.
Situation
You are the president of a local branch bank in Hobson, Virginia, that is part of a national financial
corporation, KudaCorp. Since you have led your branch through five straight years as the top-
performing financial institution in the South, you are being promoted! In three weeks, you and your
family will move to Denver, Colorado, where you will receive a large raise and oversee regional
operations for the company. However, before you leave, you need to choose your successor, the next
president of the local branch. After much thought and soul-searching, and after a careful examination of
your employees’ personnel records, you have narrowed your choices down to three. By the end of this
week, you must make your choice and begin the transition so the new president is in place before you
leave.

This task has turned out to be more difficult than you anticipated. The bank branch has three vice
presidents, all of whom could be promoted to president, but over the past twelve months, one vice
president retired and the other two were transferred to other branches to become presidents themselves.
Therefore, all three of your current vice presidents have only been with your branch for less than a year,
and you don’t know them as well as you would like. In fact, none of them has even been there long
enough to receive a first-year evaluation from you. Still, you must make a choice and justify it to the
regional personnel office. Consider the following information about each of the three vice presidents and
select the one who will be promoted; then write an essay that explains the reasoning behind your
selection (you will also probably need to explain why you didn’t choose the others).

Note: You cannot select or reject someone based on race, sexual orientation, age, gender, religion,
color, marital state, or any other federally or locally protected status. Be sure you select
appropriate information from what is provided when making and justifying your decision. For
example, it is appropriate to consider experience in this type of analysis; it is not appropriate to
consider age or gender.

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Employee Name: Jane Brill Litton    Date of Birth: 02/28/1973    Gender: Female
Title: Vice President/Corporate Accounts    Annual Salary: $79,500
Education: BBA (Bachelor of Business Administration) NHSU – 1995
Years with Company: 15+    Health: good    Months at this Branch: 2
Duties: in charge of all the corporate accounts
Positions Held/Experience:
  2014-present Vice President/Corporate Accounts - Hobson Branch
  2008-2013 Vice President/Personal Accounts - Farmer’s Lake Branch
  2004-2007 Vice President/Loans and Mortgages - Dallas Branch
  2001-2004 General Office Manager - Dallas Branch
  1999-2000 Driver-Thru Services Manager - Dallas Branch
Miscellaneous: Received the branch Employee-of-the-Year Award five times and been given nine
merit raises and three performance bonuses. Divorced with two teenage children.
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**Employee Name:** Cody G. Danvers  
**Date of Birth:** 09/12/1982  
**Gender:** Male  
**Title:** Vice President/Personal Accounts  
**Annual Salary:** $66,000  
**Education:** MBA (Master of Business Administration) Texas Tech – 2004  
**Years with Company:** 8+  
**Health:** good  
**Months at this Branch:** 9  
**Duties:** in charge of all personal accounts and ATM operations  
**Positions Held/Experience:**
- 2013-present Vice President/Personal Accounts - Hobbson Branch
- 2009-2013 Vice President/Personal Accounts - Juneau Branch
- 2006-2008 Chief Auditor/Corporate Auditing Services - East Chicago Branch
- 2005-2006 Auditor/Corporate Auditing Services - Lubbock Branch

**Miscellaneous:** Received four performance bonuses and one corporate citation for achievement (as an auditor in 2006, he uncovered and exposed a billion-dollar money laundering scheme). Single. No children.

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**Employee Name:** Arlene Lacy James  
**Date of Birth:** 01/24/1957  
**Gender:** Female  
**Title:** Vice President/Loans and Mortgages  
**Annual Salary:** $89,000  
**Education:** BS (Bachelor of Science in Banking) UCLA – 1982  
**Years with Company:** 37+  
**Health:** good  
**Months at this Branch:** 6  
**Duties:** in charge of all loans/mortgages, collections/foreclosures, and branch support services (computer services, accounting services, human resources, financial counseling, etc.)  
**Positions Held/Experience:**
- 2013-present Vice President/Loans and Mortgages - Hobbson Branch
- 2006-2013 Vice President/Loans and Mortgages - Northeast Los Angeles Branch
- 2001-2005 Vice President/Commercial Real Estate Loans - South Los Angeles Branch
- 1996-2000 Vice President/Loans and Mortgages - Main Sacramento Branch
- 1993-1996 Vice President/Personal Accounts - San Antonio Branch
- 1990-1993 General Office Manager - San Antonio Branch
- 1988-1990 Executive Assistant to the Branch President - San Antonio Branch
- 1985-1988 Executive Assistant to the Branch President - Long Beach Branch
- 1983-1985 Head Teller - Long Beach Branch
- 1982-1983 Teller - Long Beach Branch
- 1977-1982 Teller - Los Angeles Branch

**Miscellaneous:** Received Employee-of-the-Year Award fourteen times, eighteen merit raises, and twenty performance bonuses. Married, with four grown children. Plans to retire in 7-10 years. Husband is retired firefighter.