

Mod 4 Discussion 1

Classmate 1(female)Katherine

I've chosen to analyze the positions in the articles under the rights of convicted felons to vote. The first article takes the position that felons should completely lose their right to vote, while the second side states that a punishment such as a lifetime sentence of not voting for felons is unjustified.

One of the major points the first side makes in favor of felons not voting, is that losing the right to vote based on felony status is non-discriminatory, since it doesn't matter the felon's gender, race, age, etc, when determining if a once convicted felon is able to vote. The second side, on the other hand, states that African Americans are disproportionately convicted of felonies, since they make up a smaller part of the total population yet almost half of the felon population. The first side argues that the threat of having voting rights taken away for life is a deterrent for committing the crimes in the first place and a fair price to pay for disobeying the laws, while the second side argues that a lifetime punishment of taking away voting rights is unjustified for felons that have been rehabilitated, and they have enough hurdles to jump through after serving time to add that on top of it. Both sides are arguing in favor of what they believe would be in the best interests of America and its citizens. The two sides do not have a lot more in common besides that; and even their ideas of what is best for American differ.

Classmate 2 (female) Rebecca

The most concerning immigration issue in the US today is the illegal immigration. Regarding the immigration restrictions under Trump administration and under the administration of Barack Obama. The different perspective on that issue is as follow.

Barack Administration policy asserts that the US broken system prevent Americans to embrace the diversity of the country and comprehensive immigration reform that will prioritize the United States security and economic needs; by providing a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants, especially those who were brought here as children and supporting a system that requires undocumented immigrants who are in good standing to pay a fine, pay taxes, learn English, and go to the back of the line for the opportunity to become citizens which will strengthen the US economy. Obama's administration believes that the highest priority for deportations should be placed on gang members, felons, and those who pose security threats and recognize the need to secure the borders, including additional personnel, infrastructure, and technology at the borders and ports of entries, and enforce existing immigration laws, but the immigration reform is on top of their priority and is mostly lean toward open border policy.

Trump administration supports stronger border patrols and stronger repercussions for those caught in the U.S. illegally also believe in a reduction in legal immigration. They believe immigration is a national security issue, pointing out terrorism, drug cartels and criminal gangs. Reinforcing security at the border and established a method for tracking illegal will keep America safe. They believe that by completing the border fence between the United States and Mexico and giving additional resources to border agents, America's borders can be secured. They also believe that detention facilities should be expanded to hold all immigrants who are caught entering the United States. They also believe barred entry into the United States for citizens from predominantly Muslim countries. All illegal immigrants should be deported because crossing the US border illegally is a crime. They believe in stopping sanctuary cities. Despite all those divergences the republicans and the democrats agree on increasing public safety of the United States and prioritize the economics of the United States and they all believe that illegal immigration is wrong.

Mod 4 disc 2

Classmate 1 (female) Shannon

"Yet some American feminists argue that the movement should not focus on influencing the governments and cultures of other nations until women have achieved domestic goals, including the abolition of discrimination and sexism. Feminist interests played an integral role in the political landscape leading up to the 2012 election cycle. Congressional races yielded momentous wins for the women-in-government movement, with a record twenty women elected to US Senate seats, including Wisconsin Democrat Tammy Baldwin, the nation's first openly lesbian senator. In the presidential race, women voted primarily Democratic, with 55 percent of women voting for Barack Obama, and 44 percent voting for Mitt Romney, according to CNN exit polls." (Issitt, 16).

While many women across the globe would argue that American women are treated more equally than plenty of other places, we continue to face domestic struggles like rape culture, wage gaps, and brutal sexism that doesn't only target females, "...American feminists argue that the movement should not focus on influencing the governments and cultures of other nations until women have achieved domestic goals, including the abolition of discrimination and sexism." (Issitt, 16). While this may look different to every feminist here in the states, statistically it means that women are advocating for more government presence, with 55% of women voting democratically, the party known most to advocate for women's rights (Issitt, 16). During the 2012 elections, a record breaking twenty women were elected to the US Senate (Issitt, 16), and for the first time an openly gay woman served alongside them (Issitt 16). We have certainly

made steps forward in having equal representation in the states, but I think most women would agree we still have a ways to go.

Classmate 2 (Male) Thomas

Most barriers to voting rights had been eliminated by the mid-1960s. The rules regarding convicted felons, however, remain the largest single exception to universal voting rights today. In Kentucky and Virginia, persons convicted of a felony are barred from voting for life. Other states bar felons from voting until they have completed both their jail term and probation, which in many cases can extend for duration of twenty years or more. In 2006, an estimated four million released felons were barred from voting."

Many felons depending on the state are forbidden from voting "In 2006, an estimated four million released felons were barred from voting" (Lee 2016)

Almost all barriers to rights or voting were eliminated in the 1960's, but restrictions regarding felons have remained, creating the single largest exception to uniform voting rights (Lee 2016).

William Lee, Andrew Walter, "Points of View: Rights of Convicted Felons."
3/1/2016, p1-1. 1p. <http://web.a.ebscohost.com.ccco.idm.oclc.org/pov/detail/detail?vid=0&sid=8b5a7014-e744-4fdd-a070-54d3afbfa79%40sdc-v-sessmgr01&bdata=JnNpdGU9cG92LWxpdmUmc2NvcGU9c2l0ZQ%3d%3d#AN=23686655&db=pwh>

You should quote when it helps to support your argument by adding a reference and exact quote. It helps to build a reputation by correctly placing key pieces of information. It is good to paraphrase when you want to get the idea of your source across but want to put it into your own words. Having the ability to paraphrase in your own words should help you add relevant information but still adjusting it to your point of view.

Mod 4 Disc 3

Classmate 1

Summer Brim
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Online learning degrees are an option for those who are seeking further education and cannot or will not attend a physical classroom. Many students seek online learning because it can be convenient and flexible. Students who have full time jobs or take care of others may not be able to get to a certain building on a specific schedule and online learning allows them to attend class without having

to sacrifice those obligations. The growth of online learning programs has been accompanied by the growth of non-credible programs and diploma mills. The concern for both the online learning student and the potential employer who may hire them someday is the same. Both sides want the education to be of quality and credible. The best solution is to research and use the tools already available publicly to determine validity of the degree or school.

Opponents of online degrees believe they are an "inferior substitute" to traditional classrooms, that employers consider online degrees to be "substandard" and that students are missing out on "non-verbal communication clues necessary for discussion among academics" (Chittom et al). Critics will also argue that professors are too overwhelmed by the larger number of students they need to reply to in forum discussion as online classrooms are often larger than traditional classrooms (Chittom et al). The main issue the opponents have though is the question of credibility. There can be confusion as to what degrees and what schools are valid and accredited and at that, if the accreditation agencies are credible themselves.

Proponents of online learning argue that with job markets becoming more competitive, there is a need for wider options to obtain higher learning certificates and degrees (Tucker and Cook). There are plenty of reputable institutions and elite universities such as Stanford, M.I.T. and Duke offering courses online (Tucker and Cook). The strongest benefit is the convenience and flexibility to be in class virtually while physically being anywhere else, this is the only way some student would even be able to consider higher learning. While online programs themselves are often similarly priced as in person classes, student can save money on transportation, child care and physical textbooks (Tucker and Cook). Online learning continues to grow and offers more people a better quality of life (Tucker and Cook)

The best defense against concerns of credibility is "consumer education and awareness" (Wikihow). Students and potential employers alike are able to do research to determine credibility of a program. Just like one would read a review for a movie or restaurant, one could easily decide if a school is worth enrolling in or hiring from by going online and visiting the following reputable websites. The US Department of Education (ED) has a searchable list of accredited schools and is able to tell you the student loan default rates of any school, which if high would be a red flag. The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) is able to help one determine if the accreditation agency is legitimate. The Federal Student Aid office (FAFSA) is searchable for graduation rates of an institution, if low that would be a red flag. If the school has an alumni group, they could be asked how well their degrees have served them after graduation, The federal trade commission has also published a guide for small business owners to help determine the validity of an applicant's credentials (Wikihow),

Online programs are only growing as are their ugly counterparts. States can shut down nefarious diploma mills and some are better at it than others. Since the law

will not necessarily shut down these bad businesses it is up to the consumer to do their due diligence when shopping. When credibility can be determined with some research and education it will be smoother and less questionable for the students and employers alike. Technology is *still* scary for some people, but with time and seeing more and more of these degrees, the debate will most likely become less polarized. Just like anything technology based there will be doubters, at one time many people thought emails, the internet and cell phones were not going to catch on. Hopefully with consumer awareness and research, diploma mills will decline like the Nigerian email scam of yesteryear

Classmate 2

Erfan Zangeneh

English 121

Natascha Gast

September 20, 2018

Immigration Restriction

There two sides to every story and so is immigration restrictions there are some that believe that there should be restrictions but some that do not think there should be any restrictions. This is a very controversial topic because it has not only made the people of the United States uneasy but also people from other countries also, it also has made a lot of political matters worst and some better. This topic is very complex and the solution to it all is to have a system that determines the urgency of the immigrants rather than the luxury.

One of the sides of the story is not to restrict immigration because of all the positives that it has. One of the positives that come from not restricting immigration is to have a better and more successful economy. "Population growth is crucial to a healthy economy, and at present rates, immigrants and their children will account for 60 percent of US population growth in the next forty-three years" (Pawlick, Finley. 2016. PARA. 8). This is one of the points the article makes that has an impact on the thinking of the things that no one really thinks about. When thinking about an economy the thought of population growth really does not come in mind. Population growth is one thing that just happens naturally without any effort, there are hundreds and millions of new babies being born every year, so the population is growing, and the new generations are coming up while the older generations are decreasing and going extinct. But that does not necessarily mean that our population is growing because as one person comes the other might pass away or move and that just means that the population is staying constant. Unlike the baby boom that happened a while ago the population after that stayed constant and when thinking about limiting immigration we have to think about our thriving economic community that immigrants make up sixty percent of the United States population which meant that every immigrant family not only needs a house which helps the housing market, they also need a car at

least or two which helps the automotive industry, they also need utilities which is good for the utility companies that give us water and heat, but also helps preserve their jobs, and they also need food which helps keep the businesses that give us all the groceries and food in business which then turns and helps create jobs for everyone and also preserve the jobs that are already there. These are essential to a thriving community but more importantly to a thriving economy. But also, there are other positive benefits to not having a restriction to immigration like helping with terrorism. "legalizing residents who are currently living outside of the system would actually help law enforcement agencies allocate their resources more effectively in the fight against terrorism" (Pawlick, Finley. 2016. PARA. 13). Terrorism is a huge concern in the United States and to help prevent domestic and foreign terrorism there are some people that think limiting immigration would help decrease the risks in terrorism specially after 9/11. But the problem with that is when there are people in the United States the one thing they do is give all their information to the government and that makes it easy for law enforcement agencies determine and have a filter of the suspects or people who they think might have or have not done what they think or the issue at hand. But the immigration restriction and having people deported has a negative connotation as well because to keep themselves and not get deported people would not give their real names and information and they would have fake identification making it harder on the law enforcement agencies to really track a person down. What if the person that has the false identification has a history of the crimes that the law enforcement people are looking for and they cannot really determine exactly who because the person they are looking for has a false identification. That is just one of the downfalls to immigration restrictions.

The other side to this story is the group of people that does want to limit and put restrictions to immigration. One of the reasons that they want to restrict immigration is because of the jobs that the American lost to the lower wages excepted by the immigrants and that sets some people uneasy. "Americans who disliked the fact that immigrants took American jobs at reduced wages. Since that time, Americans have put great political pressure on the government to limit immigration" (Bowman. Cushman. 2016.PARA.4). The point that they are trying to make is that when the immigrants come to the United States they will do anything to make a living and that is to even work lower than the minimum wage that a normal American will except. This sets a lot of Americans very uneasy because they will lose their jobs that they have right now because of the fact some other person that came to the United States not too long ago will take their jobs only because they are willing to work for less money. This makes it extremely hard for the normal American to get a job when they have to actively compete with another person that is willing to work for less and for the same amount of work. But that is not the only reason why that they are trying to restrict immigration, they are trying to restrict immigration because of the fact that immigrants also do not pay taxes. They do not pay taxes because they are undocumented.

“Undocumented immigrants do not pay the taxes that American citizens pay, but still take advantage of many public services, such as public hospitals and public schools” (Bowman. Cushman. 2016. PARA. 6). What this is saying is that because the immigrants are not documented they will get payed, but they do not have to pay taxes and also the person who they work for also does not have to pay their extra taxes and also any health care or anything. What happens when they do not pay their taxes is that not only the state suffers but also the people and children because when we do not pay taxes our roads that are broken or hospitals or schools they do not get fixed. This is only some of the consequences that will happen but there are many more that will happen and makes sense why this group is right for wanting to restrict immigration.

Now that we know both of the sides of immigration restriction there are a lot of different viewpoints and different points that they make but they are some that are going to be similar to each other. Both of the viewpoints of have somethings in common just like they both talk about the money of the state and also the money of the American people. They talk about the undocumented immigrants and how they are not paying taxes and that they are not documented. They both also talk about the dangers of that immigrants bring on because of the fact that they are not documented. These are just some of the points that both of these articles make on their viewpoints that are similar to each other. Now that we have seen not only the differences and also the similarities of both of these viewpoints now we will see a solution to this issue.

The solution to this problem of to have or not to have immigration restriction is that there needs to be a system and a program that sees the urgency versus the luxury of the situation. This solution also comes with the benefit to all the immigrants that are in the United States right now that they will become legal immigrants and moving forward. What will happen is that going forward if the immigrant is trying to come to the United States and they are leaving a violent place, and they are leaving to get protection or if it is a life or death situation then what we will do is take the immigrants and give them protection. While they are safe that is when the paper work part will start so they can come to the United States as legal immigrants other than illegal immigrants. The second part of this solution is that when the immigrants are going to come to the United States, but it is for luxury reasons and not life or death then that's when they will go through the normal process to become a legal immigrant here in the United States. With this solution it prevents illegal immigrants to come to the United States because they are going to die but it also makes it fair for everyone because someone's life is important, and it also is important to the people of the United States also. This also will eliminate tension with the American people and immigrants and also will do a better job of eliminating illegal immigrants coming over to the United States.

All in all, there always is two sides to every story even in the case of immigration restrictions. With immigration restriction also comes with two

different viewpoints that both have a lot of great point that they both make like undocumented immigrants increase the chances of terrorism and also taxes will not be paid because they will not be documented which is not good but the other side to that is that they will help the United States economy thrive. These articles also have the significance of both of these viewpoints and the solution of having a better system of bring immigrants in and will help decrease the illegal immigrants intake into the United States.