

ENVI 419
MOVIE - RESEARCH ESSAY QUESTION

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind

Question

Inspired by a science book, 13-year-old William Kamkwamba built a wind turbine to save his village in Malawi from famine. Based on a true story.

Please watch the movie “The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind.” Then discuss the movie and the challenges that William Kamkwamba overcame to build the wind turbine.

What does the movie tell you about the experience of people experiencing major hardships, including famine, in Malawi. Your book mentions issues about energy across the continent of Africa (p. 224), as well as the “structural adjustment programs” (p. 255) that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank imposed on Malawi (and other less developed countries). Please consider how these issues affected William Kamkwamba and his family and how he overcame these challenges.

Sources and Strategies

Basically, my goal with this assignment is to have you gain a deeper understanding the dire conditions in less developed countries, and the effects of structural adjustment programs, by watching and listening to this movie. Because of this, you’ll have two main sources: the movie itself, and the textbook description of the IMF and World Bank structural adjustment programs.. If you find additional sources, please include them. But again, my primary goal is to enable you to have a deeper look at how William Kamkwamba overcame these challenges..

Formatting Requirements

Length: The **body** of your research essay should be between 600 and 750 words (**use “Word Count” to make sure you meet minimum length of 600 words**). Use Times New Roman font (12 point), with 1 inch margins all around. Please use double-spacing. Begin your response at the top of the page. Do NOT use a title page. Please include your name in the “header.” No other identifying information is needed. Please number your pages. Please bring your paper to class. SAVE A DIGITAL COPY FOR YOURSELF.