

## Theory of Writing, My Journey: Introduction

What's important to know about writing can be argued in many numerous ways. To me, the importance of writing in general and within my own writing pieces is to understand the purpose and point of view of their writing and to have an effect upon the readers. One of the rhetorical terms we have explored is purpose. Of course there are other key elements when it comes to the writing process such as other rhetorical terms like the rhetorical situation, audience, author, tone, genre, medium, stance, and language. However, I believe the purpose behind an author's writing including my own is the most important to know because it gives an explanation as to why the message within the writing is important and it also shows the author's point of view. After reading a piece of writing, readers take away a message from what was written which also contributes to my reasoning for purpose and point of view being the most important to know about my writing. In order to achieve my goal of having readers be affected by my message and understand my purpose and point of view within my writing it requires an intricate writing process.

In my writing process I mainly think about what I am trying to say. My goal is always to make readers understand my purpose and why what I am saying is important. The brainstorming part of the writing strategies is my most important step when it comes to my writing process. I focus on brainstorming because it's where I go over and plan what I am trying to say. Thinking about what I am trying to say helps me deliver my argument or task with whatever I am being asked to write about. After brainstorming I gather what evidence will help to support my argument, purpose, and point of view within my writing. I construct my well thought out writing piece while incorporating evidence and giving citations in my works cited page at the end. Peer

reviews also take place in my writing process because it allows others to give me feedback before my final submission. All of this can be proven based on my work submitted from this semester. Despite not having complete success regarding my grade within every writing assignment from this semester I did still focus and incorporate my writing process in my pieces. What I believe about writing regarding me thinking about what I want readers to take away from my writing, my purpose, point of view, and argument is what shapes my writing process.

What I believe about writing shapes my actual writing style because you can tell it is what I am most focused on. This is especially evident in my inquiry based essay. In my inquiry based essay it is clear that I was focused on giving my point of view and argument that conflicting human emotions create hypocrisy within the distinction between the animals people should keep as pets versus the animals people should eat. I was very adamant on delivering a message to readers that there is hypocrisy when it comes to deciding which animals are nice to keep as pets versus the animals that are obligated to suffer for human consumption. For example, in my conclusion I state “but it is evident that despite what your belief may be, people who have pets and consume animals contribute to the hypocrisy placed in the concept of how valuable the life of certain animals (such as cats or dogs) are versus other animals (such as cows or pigs). Despite the numerous commentary and potential solutions ultimately it can be concluded that conflicting emotions create hypocrisy in depicting which animals people should keep, such as cats or dogs, in comparison to the animals that people should eat, such as cows or pigs”. This part of my essay shows that what I believe is most important about writing (purpose, point of view, and delivering a message to writers) is what shapes what I write and how I write it.

Prior to this class and coming into this class, I believed writing was important but I didn't think about why it was nor did I believe it was all that impactful. This changed with each assignment as we started to really focus upon delivering a strong argument and figuring out how to make others understand better (hence the peer review). Peer review impacted me the most because it made me really try and figure out how I can make others comprehend my message. The feedback I have received from my professor and peers (such as my inquiry based essay) made me realize that what I say does have an impact on others and that is why the message that I am trying to send is important which again isn't something that I realized initially coming into this class, and it is also something that is different about my writing now. I try and add context to my writing because I learned that others aren't going to automatically understand my message and the concept I am attempting to deliver in my writing despite the fact that I already understand. This also helped with out of class writing as in school my IB english and IB history teacher have also told me about expanding my context and analysis so readers can understand better. Something that my english teacher said that I will never forget is "You need to introduce the character otherwise your argument falls flat". This striked me differently than other feedback because I tend to write as if readers automatically know what I'm talking about so hearing that I need to add context behind who a character is otherwise my argument falls flat really helped me expand my knowledge both in this semester and outside in my regular school classroom.

## Source Based Essay

### Is Meat Even Safe?

Meat is consumed by millions of people on this earth but, many pose the argument that eating meat is bad for you which influences people, to turn vegan or vegetarian. However, to what extent is meat actually bad for you? Should you turn vegan?. Meat can supply humans in a beneficial way such as protein and nutrition, but it does have its negative sides like contamination, bacteria, or infections.

Source One- “Monitoring of Microbial Contaminants of Beef, Pork, and Chicken in HACCP Implemented Meat Processing Plants of Korea”

Rhetorical Situation- Within this article “Monitoring of Microbial Contaminants of Beef, Pork, and Chicken in HACCP Implemented Meat Processing Plants of Korea” the department of animal science and clinical pathology persuaded readers that meat can be contaminated and affect the environment. It explains this process where it states “Contamination can occur during processing, by contact with facility equipment (e.g., grinders, belts, saws), by contact with food handlers (e.g., hand contact, knives), and exposure to other environmental sources (e.g., air, water)”. This is significant as it allows readers to see the possible danger of eating meat due to the possibility of contamination.

Author and Audience- The author of this source “Monitoring of Microbial Contaminants of Beef, Pork, and Chicken in HACCP Implemented Meat Processing Plants of Korea” is Jung Hyun Kim (department of clinical pathology), Sun Jin Hur (department of animal sciences and technology), and Dong Gyun Yim (department of animal sciences). They used this article as a way to express the potential damages meat processing causes. The audience for this article can

be anyone however it would be most beneficial to those who want to figure out if they should continue to eat meat as this article expresses concerns that are evident with meat processing.

**Tone and Purpose-** The authors of “Monitoring of Microbial Contaminants of Beef, Pork, and Chicken in HACCP Implemented Meat Processing Plants of Korea” conveys their message in an educated and proper tone. Audiences may perceive the writing as professional and convincing due to the author's strong educated tone. The purpose of this article is to express a concern regarding meat processing. For example the article states “ In recent years, there has been growing concern about meat products carrying pathogenic microorganisms, despite enhanced efforts in meat and processed meat hygiene” ( Kim). However, the purpose is also to express the efforts made to make meat more safe as the article later states “However, since the complete elimination of pathogens from raw meat is difficult or impossible, the goal of HACCP for meats focuses on reducing and preventing microbial growth” ( Kim) .

**Genre or Medium-** The genre of “ “Monitoring of Microbial Contaminants of Beef, Pork, and Chicken in HACCP Implemented Meat Processing Plants of Korea” would be educational or informational due to the message they are trying to convey to readers and how they formulated the article which leads to the medium of the article as it's evident with the way the article was written that this was meant to educate. This is evident through the author's intricate language and scientific jargon such as “The APC was determined using plate count agar (Difco Laboratories, USA) incubated at  $37\pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 48 h. The diluted 1 mL samples were also plated on 3M Petrifilm (3M, USA) to count coliforms and E. coli. The petrifilm was also incubated at  $37\pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 48 h. Blue colonies with bubbles were recorded and counted as E. coli and the pink or blue colonies

with bubbles were counted as coliforms”( Kim). This can overlap with the stance and language within the article.

Stance and language- The stance within “Monitoring of Microbial Contaminants of Beef, Pork, and Chicken in HACCP Implemented Meat Processing Plants of Korea” was proper and educational which is supported by the author’s strong language and jargon. This article was written collectively by three animal scientists so the jargon used within the article is of strong scientific vocabulary.

Source Two- “Overlap of Spoilage-Associated Microbiota between Meat and the Meat Processing Environment in Small-Scale and Large-Scale Retail Distributions”

Rhetorical Situation- This article “Overlap of Spoilage-Associated Microbiota between Meat and the Meat Processing Environment in Small-Scale and Large-Scale Retail Distributions” expands on the idea that meat can be contaminated however, this expands more on the effects of the contaminated on the small scale or large scale. This source convinces readers the negative effects within meat and meat processing on a smaller level and larger level.

Author and Audience- “Overlap of Spoilage-Associated Microbiota between Meat and the Meat Processing Environment in Small-Scale and Large-Scale Retail Distributions” was written by Giuseppina Stellato, Antonietta La Storia, Francesca De Filippis, Francesco Villani, Danilo Ercolini (all apart of the department of agricultural sciences) and Giorgia Borriello (department of animal health). This was written as an article and the audience can be towards anyone however it’ll benefit those interested in the dangers of meat as it addresses any possible concerns.

Tone and Purpose- The tone of “Overlap of Spoilage-Associated Microbiota between Meat and the Meat Processing Environment in Small-Scale and Large-Scale Retail Distributions” is proper and educational. Based on the tone, audiences may perceive this article to be educational and informative. The purpose is to spread awareness of meat processes and the effect of it towards the environment. For example in the article it states “The study provides an in-depth description of the microbiota of meat and meat processing environments. It highlights the importance of the environment as a contamination source of spoilage bacteria, and it shows that the size of the retail facility does not affect the level and type of contamination” (Stellato).

Genre or Medium- The form of the writing supports the idea that the genre is educational or informative. The piece is delivered in a proper and complex way so the message is conveyed at a higher level. For example within “Overlap of Spoilage-Associated Microbiota between Meat and the Meat Processing Environment in Small-Scale and Large-Scale Retail Distributions” it states “Hierarchical clustering of the samples based on the microbiota showed a certain separation between meat and environmental samples, with higher levels of Proteobacteria in meat. In particular, levels of Pseudomonas and several Enterobacteriaceae members were significantly higher in meat samples, while Brochothrix, Staphylococcus, lactic acid bacteria, and Psychrobacter prevailed in environmental swab samples”(Stellato). This example relates to the stance and language within the article.

Stance and Language- The stance is proper and educational, this is supported by the intricate language used within the article as this was written by animal scientist and or experts which is why the diction and jargon was complex, for example “The 16S rRNA sequencing analysis showed that core microbiota were shared by 80% of the samples and included

Pseudomonas spp., Streptococcus spp., Brochothrix spp., Psychrobacter spp., and Acinetobacter spp”(Stellato).

Source Three- “Meat Processing”

Rhetorical Situation- This source convinces readers the benefits of meat and expands on the meat process. For example the text states “The structural and biochemical properties of muscle are therefore critical factors that influence both the way animals are handled before, during, and after the slaughtering process and the quality of meat produced by the process”.

Author and Audience- This source was written by R. Paul Singh and H. Russell Cross. This source was written as an article and was written for anyone interested in the topic or reconsidering their views upon meat or meat processing.

Tone and Purpose- The tone is educational as this source was written to inform and the purpose of the article is to explain the process of meat and the benefits or facts about meat. For example the article states “Meat contains a number of essential vitamins and minerals” (Singh and Cross) or “Meat is an excellent source of protein” (Singh and Cross).

Genre or Medium- The genre of this article is educational or informative . This article is delivered to readers in an organized way as the article is split in different sections that supply different information. The article “Meat Processing” was first put in the category of “Proteins” in which they state “Meat is an excellent source of protein” (Singh and Cross). Then they went into the section under “Fats” in which the article states “A beneficial characteristic of saturated fatty acids is that they do not undergo oxidation when exposed to air” (Singh and Cross). Finally the article states “Meat contains a number of essential vitamins and minerals” under the section “Vitamins and Minerals” (Singh and Cross).



Stance and Language- The stance is informative and the language is proper as this is meant to educate the audience who reads it. Within the article “Meat Processing” it’s proper language and intention to educate readers about meat and meat processing is evident where it states “Meat is an excellent source of the minerals iron, zinc, and phosphorus. It also contains a number of essential trace minerals, including copper, molybdenum, nickel, selenium, chromium, and fluorine” (Singh and Cross).

Source 4- “Prevalence of Salmonella infecting bacteriophages associated with Ontario pig farms and the holding area of a high capacity pork processing facility”

Rhetorical Situation- This article uses its communication to convince audiences that salmonella is affecting pig farms which further affect pig production or pork processing. For example the article states “There is interest in applying bacteriophages to control Salmonella in pig production and pork processing. The following reports on the prevalence of Salmonella infecting bacteriophages within Ontario pig farms and associated with the holding area of a pork slaughterhouse.”

Author and Audience- This article is written by Sunan Wang, Weikang Zhao, Asad Raza Robert Friendship, Roger Johnson, Magdalena Kostrzynska, and Keith Warriner. The audience is also welcomed to anyone however it would target those who are interested in learning the dangers of meat.

Tone and Purpose- The tone is educational and proper. The purpose of this article is to spread awareness and caution upon the speak of salmonella upon pig farms. For example the text states “The carriage of Salmonella within Ontario pig farms is estimated to be approximately

50% and increases during the course of processing through cross-contamination events”(Wang).

Genre or Medium- The genre is informative and this article was delivered as a high level proper article with the intention of spreading a message about negative effects towards meat. For example the article states “S. Heidelberg is one of the most common causes of human salmonellosis, with multi-drug resistant types such as S. Typhimurium DT104 being the most prevalent in animal production, especially in pigs”(Wang).

Stance and Language- In relation to the tone the stance is educational which is supported by the detailed language and excessive use of statistics to support the author’s original claim about the dangers of meat. For example it states “Salmonella, especially those with multi-antibiotic resistance, remain one of the most significant foodborne pathogens with an estimated 14 million cases occurring annually within North America” (Wang).

In conclusion, all four sources explore facts about meat. In articles “Monitoring of Microbial Contaminants of Beef, Pork, and Chicken in HACCP Implemented Meat Processing Plants of Korea”, “Overlap of Spoilage-Associated Microbiota between Meat and the Meat Processing Environment in Small-Scale and Large-Scale Retail Distributions”, and “Prevalence of Salmonella infecting bacteriophages associated with Ontario pig farms and the holding area of a high capacity pork processing facility”, It covered the negatives; and in articles like “Meat Processing” it covered the positives when it comes to meat consumption and the process of meat. There is no definitive answer when it comes to eating meat due to the numerous differentiating sides. Many would argue that meat is contaminated and should motivate those to turn vegan or vegetarian while others still claim that meat is beneficial and gives things such as protein,

nutritions, and vitamins. However it is a big topic that is something to look into and consider all factors.

## Work Cited (Source Based Essay)

“Meat Processing”

<https://academic.eb.com/levels/collegiate/article/meat-processing/111128>

“Monitoring of Microbial Contaminants of Beef, Pork, and Chicken in HACCP Implemented Meat Processing Plants of Korea”

Jung Kim-Sun Hur-Dong Yim -

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5960826/>

“Overlap of Spoilage-Associated Microbiota between Meat and the Meat Processing Environment in Small-Scale and Large-Scale Retail Distributions”

Giuseppina Stellato-Antonietta La Stora-Francesca De Filippis-Giorgia

Borriello-Francesco Villani-Danilo Ercolini -

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4907188/>

“Prevalence of Salmonella infecting bacteriophages associated with Ontario pig farms and the holding area of a high capacity pork processing facility”

<https://www.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/jsfa.4090>

## Inquiry Based Proposal

To What Extent Does Human Emotion Affect The Distinction Between Pets We Keep Vs. Animals We Eat?

Around the whole world people have animals as pets, consume animals as a source for food, or both. Particularly within the United States, having pets is very common. However, to what extent does human emotion affect the distinction between pets we keep vs the animals we eat?. There are many people who are pet owners who consume meat, so why are some animals allowed to be kept as furry little friends and others have to die for our consumption of food?. This brings me to my thesis and or claim that human emotions affect and depicts what exactly is the distinction between animals we can keep and the animals that we can eat.

So why look into this topic? I find it interesting that people, especially within the United States, can have animals but still consume meat; does this make them a bad person? Should people really switch over to veganism to prove they support animal rights? What justifies eating animals like cows and pigs?. Many people have become advocates for veganism and protecting our animals no matter what it is due to the hypocrisy upon humans as the same people who have pets also consume meat. It's almost as if the life of a dog is taken as more valuable than the life of a cow that was just killed to eventually become your burger. The animals that are being consumed for food suffer an immense amount. According to the article "Flesh of Your Flesh" by Elizabeth Kolbert, it states "No reader of this book would tolerate someone swinging a pickax at a dog's face," Foer observes. And yet, he notes, we routinely eat fish that have been killed in this way, as well as chickens who have been dragged through the stunner and pigs who have been electrocuted and cows who have had bolts shot into their heads. (In many cases, the cows are not quite killed by the bolts, and so remain conscious as they are skinned and dismembered.)".

This matter is relevant for social action and justice due to the fact that many people have looked into the topic of animals we keep as pets vs. the animals we eat which formed the solution and social action of people trying to persuade others to become vegan whether it's through a social media, protest, or article that discusses the benefits of veganism. In the article "The Health Advantage of a Vegan Diet: Exploring the Gut Microbiota Connection" Glick-Bauer, M. & Yeh, M. (2014) it states "As early as the 1970s researchers have been examining the role of diet on gut microflora by comparing diets high in meat ("mixed Western diet") with vaguely defined non-meat diets. For example, Reddy et al. [39] found evidence that omnivores had an anaerobic microflora enriched in Bacteroides, Bifidobacterium, Peptococcus, and Lactobacillus when compared to non-meat eaters". This quote shows the different bacteria found in people who consume plants and meat whereas plant eaters don't have that.

The topic of human emotions deciding which animals we keep as a pet vs. the animals we keep to eat vary with numerous solutions and commentary. Due to the intricate topic and differentiating sides I believe I'd be done with my research by April 11th and finish with my essay by April 18th. Furthermore, as a result of this issue, there have been social actions from marches, social media posts, articles persuading people to turn vegan, and many more. This topic can be directed towards any audience that consumes meat although they have a pet or anyone who consumes meat despite supporting animal rights. Are you truly a supporter of animals if you still eat them? Should people who have pets be vegan? What's really the answer to this issue?. Despite the numerous commentary and solutions ultimately it can be concluded that human emotion affects the distinction between the pets we keep vs the animals we eat.

## Inquiry Based Essay

### To What Extent Does Conflicting Emotions Create Hypocrisy Within The Distinction Between The Animals People Should Keep Versus The Animals People Should Eat?

Around the whole world people have animals as pets, consume animals as a source for food, or both. Particularly within the United States, having pets is very common. However, to what extent does conflicting human emotions create hypocrisy within the distinction between the animals people keep versus the animals people eat?. There are many people who are pet owners who consume meat, so why are some animals allowed to be kept as furry little friends and others have to die for our consumption of food?. This brings me to my thesis that conflicting human emotions create hypocrisy in depicting which animals people should keep, such as cats or dogs, in comparison to the animals that people should eat, such as cows or pigs.

People especially within the United States, can have animals but still consume meat; does this make them a bad person? should people really switch over to veganism to prove they support animal rights? what justifies eating animals like cows and pigs?. Many people have become advocates for veganism and protecting our animals no matter what kind of animal it is due to the hypocrisy upon humans as the same people who have pets, such as cats or dogs, also consume meat. It's almost as if the life of a dog is taken as more valuable than the life of a cow that was just killed to eventually become your burger. The animals that are being consumed for food suffer an immense amount. According to the article "Flesh of Your Flesh" by Elizabeth Kolbert it states, "No reader of this book would tolerate someone swinging a pickax at a dog's face," Foer observes. And yet, he notes, we routinely eat fish that have been killed in this way, as well as chickens who have been dragged through the stunner and pigs who have been

electrocuted and cows who have had bolts shot into their heads. (In many cases, the cows are not quite killed by the bolts, and so remain conscious as they are skinned and dismembered.)” (Kolbert). This shows the undeniable hypocrisy when it comes to the life of cats or dogs versus animals like pigs and cows. This is due to the fact that in the United States it’s common to keep a cat or dog as a “furry little friend” and not care as much for the cows and pigs that suffer for people’s consumption.

As a result, people try to persuade others to become vegan whether it’s through a social media, protest, or article that discusses the benefits of veganism. For instance, pro-veganism supporters claim that numerous bacteria are found in meats; bacteria found in meat has been one of the main arguments other than saving all types of animals. In the article “The Health Advantage of a Vegan Diet: Exploring the Gut Microbiota Connection” by Marian Glick Bauer and Ming-Chin Yeh it states, “As early as the 1970s researchers have been examining the role of diet on gut microflora by comparing diets high in meat (“mixed Western diet”) with vaguely defined non-meat diets. For example, Reddy et al. [39] found evidence that omnivores had an anaerobic microflora enriched in Bacteroides, Bifidobacterium, Peptococcus, and Lactobacillus when compared to non-meat eaters” (Glick-Bauer and Yeh 4826). This quote shows the different bacterias found in people who consume plants and meat whereas plant eaters don’t have those bacterias.

Despite evidence supporting the concept that consuming meat isn’t completely healthy, this didn’t stop others from defending the consumption of meat. Many people believe that certain animals were put on this earth for the sole purpose of our consumption and meat actually offer a lot of benefits like protein and vitamins. In the article “ Meat Processing” it states “Meat



contains a number of essential vitamins and minerals” and “Meat is an excellent source of protein”(Singh and Cross). This shows the differing opinion when it comes to meat and the support for eating meat sources such as cows or pigs despite the suffering they endure.

However, can the benefits of meat outweigh the bad?. There are numerous articles expressing the dangers of meat consumption. For example in the article “Monitoring of Microbial Contaminants of Beef, Pork, and Chicken in HACCP Implemented Meat Processing Plants of Korea” by Jung Hyun Kim, Sun Jin Hur, and Dong Gyun Yim it states “ In recent years, there has been growing concern about meat products carrying pathogenic microorganisms, despite enhanced efforts in meat and processed meat hygiene” ( Kim Hur Yim). In the article “Overlap of Spoilage-Associated Microbiota between Meat and the Meat Processing Environment in Small-Scale and Large-Scale Retail Distributions” by Giuseppina Stellato, Antonietta La Stora, Francesca De Filippis, Francesco Villani, Danilo Ercolini, and Giorgia Borriello it continues to support the concept of meat being a health risk. In this article it states “The study provides an in-depth description of the microbiota of meat and meat processing environments. It highlights the importance of the environment as a contamination source of spoilage bacteria, and it shows that the size of the retail facility does not affect the level and type of contamination” (Stellato, La Stora, De Filippis, Villani, Ercolini, Borriello). Finally in the article “Prevalence of Salmonella infecting bacteriophages associated with Ontario pig farms and the holding area of a high capacity pork processing facility” written by Sunan Wang, Weikang Zhao, Asad Raza, Robert Friendship, Roger Johnson, Magdalena Kostrzynska, and Keith Warriner it states, “The carriage of Salmonella within Ontario pig farms is estimated to be approximately 50% and increases during the course of processing through cross-contamination events”(Wang,

Zhao, Raza, Friendship, Johnson, Kostrzynska, Warriner ). Across all articles it ties back to one idea; that idea is that meat adds many concerns, one of the biggest being that meat contains a lot of bacteria due to the animal it came from. So is the killing and suffrage of animals worth the pain of cows and pigs in addition to the health risk towards humans?.

There's no denying that Americans love animals such as cats or dogs which is evident in the statistics. Forty six million Americans in the United States own at least one dog and thirty eight million own at least one cat. It's easy to pay attention to the benefits that people see with having a pet such as the fact that keeping a pet is allowing an animal to have a comfortable home instead of being in the streets or any type of danger. However, many don't pay attention to the hypocrisy they contribute. Having a pet but consuming animals allows many to think that the life of a cat or dogs should matter more than a pig or cow. In the article "Flesh of Your Flesh" by Elizabeth Kolbert it also states, "This year, they will cook roughly twenty-seven billion pounds of beef, sliced from some thirty-five million cows. Additionally, they will consume roughly twenty-three billion pounds of pork, or the bodies of more than a hundred and fifteen million pigs, and thirty-eight billion pounds of poultry, some nine billion birds"(Kolbert). This shows the immense amount of animals being tortured, mutilated, and not cared for because people rather pay attention and care for cats and dogs rather than the animals they consume for dinner.

In conclusion, people have many differing opinions and outlooks towards animals like cats and dogs versus cows and pigs. Some people believe that all animals should be treated equally and to help save animals, people should consider veganism. However, others believe that keeping an animal like a cat or dog should be meant as a "furry little friend" in comparison to animals like cows and pigs which were meant for our consumption. This circles back to my

question “To What Extent Does Conflicting Emotions Create Hypocrisy Within The Distinction Between The Animals People Should Keep Versus The Animals People Should Eat?”. The sub questions such as, Are you truly a supporter of animals if you still eat them? Should people who have pets be vegan? What's really the answer to this issue? remain heavily debated; but it is evident that despite what your belief may be, people who have pets and consume animals contribute to the hypocrisy placed in the concept of how valuable the life of certain animals (such as cats or dogs) are versus other animals (such as cows or pigs). Despite the numerous commentary and potential solutions ultimately it can be concluded that conflicting emotions create hypocrisy in depicting which animals people should keep, such as cats or dogs, in comparison to the animals that people should eat, such as cows or pigs.

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## Outside Work (IB History Essay)

### Was the Progressive Era Really Progressive?

As many know throughout its history, America has been put through trying times. Failed policies, laws, and overall a failed government have occurred and many times citizens have responded with reform movements, perhaps the most well known being the Progressive movement. Progressive in the political sense can essentially be defined as the political belief that the government should have a role in protecting their citizens. Progress within a society is when a development or change is made with the purpose of moving the society towards a goal such as an improvement of technology, economy, science. This can imply growth in an economic, political, and social way; which during the time of 1890-1920 is what Americans needed. This time frame is referred to as the Progressive Era, in which American reformers pushed to create laws to increase democracy, encourage morality, and protect workers. At the time, American society was evolving in a political, economic, and social way. So what was done to try and help these times? Many new laws were enforced that, in some ways helped, but in many cases caused a lot of harm. This is what makes the progressive era, “progressive” to a certain extent within American society. Analysis of this time period reveals that America was altered in numerous economic, political, and social ways that were both beneficial and harmful to American citizens.

Starting in an economic way, the progressive era aimed to create economic reforms. This would include improving working conditions, hours, and pay. American reformers also fought for income tax in order to help fund the government. They also supported the American Empire with annexing and taking over foreign country's to increase access to raw materials and markets.

This was a good sign as many people who didn't have jobs can get one and America was going to obtain more money as a whole. However it didn't work out that way in every state.

Despite having progress in an economical way, some states were still in bad shape. For example, in the state of Illinois many were still out of a job, broke, and starving. In the document "The Pullman Strike- Prime Analysis & Paper 1" on page 29 in the reader, citizens of Pullman, Illinois write to the governor, it states "We, the people of Pullman, who, by the greed and oppression of George M. Pullan, have been brought to a condition where starvation stares us in the face, do hereby appeal to you for aid in this our hour of need. We have been refused employment and have no means of leaving this vicinity, and our families are starving". The condition of the citizens deteriorated and governor Pullman didn't do anything to the point where governor John P. Altgeld interjected. He stated in a different source on page 29, "The state of Illinois has not least desire to meddle in the affairs of your company, but it cannot allow a whole community within its borders to perish of hunger". This shows that despite having new sources of income within America, not every state was benefitted and many were still broke, unemployed, and starving which is where America lacked progression in the economical aspect.

One of the major changes during this era was in a social aspect. On one hand new technological and scientific developments emerged, this meant new inventions, more jobs, access to more resources, and new scientific theories (for example, Darwin's theories). The Darwinism theory helped people believe that there was a eugenic way in which the United States have progressed and can progress. For example on page 14 in the reader it states "There is apparently much truth in the belief that the wonderful progress of the United States, as well as the character of the people, are the results of natural selection; for more eugenic, restless and courageless men

from all parts of Europe have emigrated during the last ten of twelve generations to that great country, and have there succeeded best". This gave Americans a sense of who was "most fit" which benefited the social aspect due to the fact that Americans believed a certain type of person, in this case more Northern Protestant Europeans, would help bring in better development and progress within the United States.

However, this concept hurt those from other racial backgrounds. If you weren't looked at as "fit" for survival, it allowed room for more racial discrimination and prejudice as the belief in eugenics grew. Belief that a race can be superior over another allowed mass discrimination as races were put upon a hierarchy. As stated on page 13, "Aryans were at the top of his list and Jews and Africans at the bottom". Darwinism was evidently only benefiting the rich, white, and powerful. An example of Darwinism being unbeneficial to those of other races, is the Plessy Vs Ferguson case. In 1896 an African American by the name of Homer Plessy challenged Louisiana's segregation laws within public transportation. One of the arguments made on page 15 in the reader by Justice Henry B Brown was that "If one race be inferior to the other socially, the Constitution of the United States cannot put them on the same plane". This page continued to state that "The decision permitted the growth of a system of state and local legislation known as "Jim Crow" laws". This shows the unbeneficial aspect of eugenics and the Darwinism theory, the more people believe in it the more room it makes for discrimination and prejudice in which lacks progress in America.

Further in the social aspect as race, gender, and rights were a big impact within the Progressive Era. As previously mentioned, eugenics took a major negative impact towards those outside of the European race. It was believed that the European race was superior and "best fit" ,



this led people to characterize other races and put them in a hierarchy. As seen in "Race in the Progressive Era" page 2 under "Europeans" it states "This race is distinguished for the facility with which it attains the highest intellectual endowments" in comparison to "Africans" which states "while the many nations which compose this race present a singular diversity of intellectual character, of which the far extreme is the lowest grade of humanity". This shows the perspective at the time when it came to eugenics and white superiority over the other races.

In addition, America lacked progress due to gender discrimination. Women during this time had little to no rights as they weren't even allowed to cross state borders. For example Jack Johnson (an African American boxer who was married to a white woman) was arrested numerous times for violating the Mann act due to the fact that he would sneak women across state lines which was forbidden. Further evidence of gender inequality is in the document "Gender in the Progressive Era" on page 7 states, "Without doubt there exist some distinguished women, very superior to the average man, but they are as exceptional as the birth of any monstrosity, as for example, of a gorilla with two heads, consequently, we may neglect them entirely" . This shows America's discrimination towards women as they're called a monstrosity and compared to a "gorilla with two heads" in order to emphasize how unlikely their acceptance would be; the source also goes on to support the neglect towards women as it states "we may neglect them entirely". This shows lack of progress in a societal aspect as America still ran upon racial and gender inequality and or discrimination.

Despite this discrimination, benefits did take place as new amendemnts were enacted. The 13, 14, 15 amendments were enacted against racial discrimination and the 19th amendment was enacted against gender inequality. The 13th amendement (passed in 1864) abolished slavery,

the 14th amendment (passed in 1868) allows equal protection of the law to any person born, and the 15th amendment (passed in 1870) allows anyone no matter their race or color the right to vote. Finally the 19th amendment (passed in 1920) ended women's suffrage and gave women the right to vote.

While there was some social/ political justice, it extended pass voting. A group of white Americans known as “progressives” set out to tackle problems evolved from industrialization, migration, immigration, and urbanization in order to save “civilization”. In the document “What Is Progress” on page 18 it states “progressives believed they had a duty to intervene in society, a responsibility to help the less fortunate become as “fit” as possible. These Americans placed their faith in education and legislation”. The document continues to state “Their numbers included Democrats, Republicans, and independents. Although most were middle- class white Americans, on some issues they had the support of labor union leaders, immigrants, African Americans, and even wealthy industrialists”. This shows progress in a political aspect as people from different types of background came together to make America stronger as a society. However, this still left room for lack of progress due to the fact that this didn't stop racists immigration laws from forming like the Chinese exclusion act. The Chinese exclusion act of 1882 was the law that was enforced to prohibit all Chinese laborers from immigration and also excluded Chinese nationals from eligibility for United States citizenship. It was the first immigration law to exclude an ethnic group as a whole which shows an area of lack of progression with America.

In conclusion, America had a lot of areas of growth but also countless setbacks. Economically, politically, and socially America evidently had a lack of progress primarily

surrounding minority groups such as women or people outside of the white race. However, not many people realize that there was a light at the end of the tunnel. Despite trying times, new laws and amendments were made to benefit those who were discriminated against. Despite the de facto of it in which minority groups such as African Americans or women still get discriminated against within American society, having amendments placed was a step in the right direction. With so many pro's and con's and areas of progress then lack and progress, it confirms my claim that the Progressive Era was "progressive" to a certain extent within American society.