


B+ Portfolio



I have come a long way since the beginning of this year. This writing portfolio is easily the most substantial thing I have ever written, and it is also the first time I have been given good instructions on many parts of the writing process. In previous papers, high school and a few college ones, I have written papers that had none of the sources incorporated into the text, and I didn't know this was wrong. I have done my best to follow the four things that will make my writing exceptional, these are critical thinking, rhetorical awareness, processes of writing, and knowledge of conventions.

My critical thinking abilities were put to the test in this research paper. I needed to write the paper and show a perspective, which I believe I did well, and address other opposing perspectives, which I believe I also did well. I tried very hard to get opposing perspectives for this paper. I held long discussions about capitalism and socialism with a few of my more intelligent friends, as well as leading open discussions online. The issue of context is important in this paper, and I believe that I made it clear that the audience was American capitalists, and that is what the argument is directed towards. I addresses socialism's historical context well by outlining the development and history of it.

Incorporating source material into the text proved to be easier than I thought. The sources gave me fresh ideas as well as better elaborations of my own, and in many cases it allowed me to successfully use their ideas to strengthen my argument. It was difficult, however, to find good sources that opposed socialism. Evaluating the sources I was going to use was important in judging their suitability for their purpose. Incorporating the

sources also meant relating their quotes to my argument. My skills in the area of quoting authors and deciding what to do with these quotes are probably still rough, because this semester constitutes all of my experience in that area. 

Rhetorical awareness is important in my research paper. Making a clear purpose is necessary for the paper to be effective. I believe my thesis is clear and should be clearly identifiable. As for the rest of the paper, I wrote this for a college audience, educated but not experts. I went into some detail about everything important, and more detail about obscure ideas and events. I don't believe the paper would intimidate anybody in this audience by skipping over important facts, and likewise it wouldn't be dumbed down enough to make them apathetic halfway through.

The writing process was another thing that I was new to doing well. Before this portfolio, I very rarely ever had anybody proofread or critique my papers. This semester, however, I realized how important that was and did what I could to get good feedback, which to me was best accomplished by asking the professor rather than students when I could. Making multiple drafts was something I have done more of recently as well. I used my drafts to improve on criticized areas, and took into account others' ideas when I was revising.   I thought it was interesting that my research paper did not end up being on the same topic as it began. It put me at a slight disadvantage when it came to sources, but I'm glad it happened this way because I think what I wrote about was what I wanted to write about all along, and I just didn't know it at the time. I think it's interesting to look back at my old drafts and see where my ideas were at the time.

Putting my papers into certain formats is important. The writing manual was helpful in this, and I checked the format of my research paper against their suggestions

several times. When I think of formats in this portfolio, I think of my resume. I believe that is one of the most important well formatted papers I will need to create. My writing mechanics have improved this semester as well as the rest of my writing, but there are still some things I can't spot on my own, so it's important for me to get good feedback. I am always a little bit concerned about my tone and sometimes structure, because I mostly read older books, and modern paper formats often times seem immature and not subtle like I believe good writing to be. My writing, however, I believe isn't particularly good even if I really try. I often look at examples and formats to structure my papers properly, and I try to be critical of my tone as not to make it inappropriate for my purpose. A good example of this was my usage of symbol based same page citations in some of my older papers; I did that because it was what I was used to seeing. I believe I cited and documented my sources well. I carefully looked at the examples in the writing manual and followed them exactly based on the MLA format rules.

I believe this portfolio represents my best work so far, and it is good, I believe, in the context of myself. It may not hold up to Voltaire, Marx, or even superior college writers than myself, however I am proud of my work and how far I've come in a short time.

Autobiography

I was born in Lewiston Idaho in November of 1985. From that time, on until I was six years old, I lived on a quiet street on the outskirts of town. My father, a Washington State University alumnus, was working as a deputy sheriff. My mother stayed at home to take care of me, and three years later, my younger brother. I was happy with the way things were, as most children are. Things at the time were similar to most childhoods, growing up with various pets, making out of town trips to my grandparents house, learning to ride a two wheel bike. This, however, all changed into something more interesting.

I was six years old when my parents told me that we were moving for the first time. As most children would be, I was oblivious to the implications and mostly concerned about the battle scarred gray and white cat I had recently found on the street and adopted. My parents picked me up from school and drove me many miles past our old house, along the highway following the Snake River, to an area next to a large island in the Snake. This island, I was later informed, was Chief Timothy State Park. We went up the driveway and I saw the familiar sight of my dad's collection of Oldsmobiles, next to an old but remarkably clean trailer. This trailer was to be my house until the sixth grade. At the time I didn't care that I lived in a trailer, seeing more stars the first night there than I'd seen in my whole life made me forget that I had to spend at least my time sleeping in the small trailer. We had one neighbor, the couple that managed the park, who were good people. Sue, the wife of the park attendant, would often make me fish sticks when I would come to visit. Gary, the park attendant, would play Nintendo with me on occasion. I spent a lot of time exploring the surrounding area, which as I was told Lewis and Clark passed through ages ago. I was always looking for evidence of this, although the most I

found was an arrowhead and an old carriage that seemed to have fallen off the cliff near where we lived. I shot my BB guns, looked for wildlife, built forts, caught mantises, agitated snakes, chased geese with the dog, and did a lot of things boys of my age would like. Most notably was when I acquired a go kart from a teary and reminiscent family friend, and the park staff used a tractor to clear a large circle track for me some distance under the cliff. At the time I had a carefree childhood, which I am thankful for.

Things continued like this, my father as a deputy sheriff, my mom taking a job later, and myself attending school in town. In the sixth grade something happened between my parents and my father got a new job in a new city.

It was a hot summer, and I was riding in our car, an unreliable budget forced red and white ford tempo, my mother driving and my younger brother in the back seat. Our task was to deliver my fathers job application to a place in Spokane while he was at work. We were on a tight deadline and only had a few hours to go before they wouldn't accept it. Almost halfway there, there was some kind of disturbance and traffic came to a dead stop. After an endless wait, it became clear we wouldn't make it in time, and we stopped in some no name town that was in the vicinity. That was when my mother decided to send it in the mail, postmarked before the due time. It worked and my father got the job.

Soon after, we rented a nice cozy house with a huge front window on the south hill in Spokane. My father began work at SIRT, which later became WSU's campus in Spokane. It was at this time that I got my first computer, which I played games on with friends in lieu of being able to roam free outside. My school was a short walk from my house, through a nice neighborhood with tree lined streets. I had some trouble adjusting to school, as I went to private school until this point, but it was something of a learning experience for me. I lived here for

about a year until my family's improved financial situation allowed us to buy a house.

Once again, I was picked up from school and brought to the new house. This house was much much larger than any I had lived in before. It needed some work but my father readily took care of that. It was at this time that I started junior high, and on somewhat of a whim, joined the music program. That was the extent of the interesting things I did in junior high. Junior high marked my first trip to Seattle, which I remember well because my best friend and I were let loose unattended in downtown, which made the whole band experience more rewarding once I found out we often took trips. Once I got to high school, I stayed in band and did many fun things because of it. Our band went to Hawaii and took awards there, went to Seattle several times, took national awards in Canada, performed for several Olympic ceremonies, performed on a battleship, did many community programs, went to new York, went to Washington DC, and won the lilac parade competition among other things, all in the time I was in it. Hawaii was probably the most fun I have ever had. My best friend also was on that trip. My favorite memory was when we decided to go to Pearl Harbor from Waikiki, not knowing any directions at all. We relied entirely upon the public transportation system and directions from various locals and drivers. Once we had gotten lost, we were given a ride by an Asians only tour bus back to where we needed to go. As we walked in late to a band meeting, we met an unhappy glare from our band instructor that had just found out we'd spent all day going across the state. Along with band, I was busy working in high school. My first job, at fifteen years old, was working at the local drag strip. I ran the machine that printed out the time slips for the drivers, and sometimes helped inspect the cars. I later worked in different fast food restaurants to finance my gasoline and other needs. These jobs were secondary concerns to my hobbies, which were mostly racing and car stereos. When I was fifteen my grandfather died and left me one thousand dollars, which I bought

a beat up cutlass convertible with, and have been working on, fixing, and racing to this day. In my senior year, my family hosted an exchange student from Poland. We quickly became best friends and due to our very similar personalities and interests, and were mostly inseparable; at school people often referred to us as the same person. We would often get ideas and act on them spontaneously, such as building speakers from raw materials or putting odd accessories into the car we bought. I didn't work very hard in high school but I managed to have fun and most importantly reach my goal, which was to go to WSU.

I was with my father, driving our borrowed pickup with all of my things in the back. He knew Pullman well, but it was all new to me. We drove up to my new residence hall and loud music was blasting to welcome the new students. I was impressed by the view from my eighth floor room, and instantly loved where I was. From then on I've made many friends, and college has surpassed even my highest expectations. I have learned a lot about myself that I didn't know before. Apparently I love history, and that is my intended major. I also found out that I am very resilient to stress, constant family problems have been distracting me, and the amount of work that is expected of me is much higher than I anticipated, however I'm doing well and I couldn't ask for more than what I have now.

People often say they are the sum of their experiences. But what does that mean to me? Does the idea of "Know thyself" find a place in this context? I think it does. Fortunately, I realized early enough that I can learn just as much from bad examples as from good ones. That being said, there are certain things I will never do because I know firsthand the effect that can occur. There are goals I have set to prevent history from repeating itself as well. I like to consider myself an optimistic pragmatist. Therefore being honest with myself is crucial. If I don't set a goal and consider my angles as they really are, I will probably fail and be disappointed. I am

introspective and because of this I have realized that if I am not honest with my feelings to others, I am only hurting myself, because matters will not be as they should be. Although somewhat critical, I am less likely to fault honest people. Montaigne, in his essay on presumption, said something of truth that helps illustrate my standpoint; “A generous should never disguise its thoughts. But willingly reveal its inmost depths. It is either all good, or at least all human.”

Works cited

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Research Proposal, beginning of project
Communism, a path to hell or good intentions?

With america being flooded with fear and propaganda regarding "the communist threat" for so long, misunderstandings and obstinency are fairly common things. while communism is related to marxism and leninism for example, this paper is not going to be written with the purpose of establishing a complete and lengthy definition, but rather to lay the groundwork of understanding of what communism is, why it has been implemented, what happened after implementation, and a discussion of the theoretical as well as practical shortcomings and benefits.

some thoughts;

- contemporary significance in china
- historical significance in russia and others
- who benefits? this should be explained
- global as well as local perspectives should be seen

Annotated bib.

1. Socialism and the individual, M.D. Kammari, Foreign languages publishing house, Moscow, 1951

Why? an explanation of individualism in communist society should be included in the paper

2. The socialist idea and revolutionary perestroika, Mikhail Gorbachev, Novosti press agency publishing house, 1989

Why? what gorbachev did is important in understanding why communism failed in russia.

3. How to be a good communist, Liu Shao-Chi, Foreign languages press, Peking, 1964

Why? this is important because it shows early ideology in chinas communist party, what it was supposed to be, not what it may be now.

4. Soviet communism and the socialist vision, Julius Jacobson, Transaction books, new jersey, 1972

Why? this book contains many primary sources discussing the shortcomings of russia's communist party in context of the goals of the 1917 revolution

5. The roots of russian communism, David lane, Van norcum & comp. N.V. -DR. H. J. Prakke & H. M. G. Prakke, assen, 1969

Why? this book explains the social hierarchy and status definitions.

NOTE: these are just my book sources. online and other magazine or newspaper published sources will probably follow. also to be included is "the communist manifesto" by Karl Marx.

Title?

Socialism is one of the most misrepresented words in American politics (YDS-USA). The common understanding of socialism has been blurred into the same category as communism, which has been the subject of years of propaganda for and against during the Cold War. The lingering ideas spread by capitalist opposers depict communism and socialism as subversive political organizations out to ruin the American way of life. The truth is in fact not that simple. The modern socialist movement is democratic, unlike the bureaucratic communist party (SP-USA). It is important to understand that this party is active, and that socialist policies have been in use in Sweden, Canada, and the United States for some time now (DS-USA). To understand socialism one must look what the party is advocating socially and economically. Democratic socialism is a system that has a lot of merit, theoretically and practically.

Socialist ideology can be traced back to the French revolution (Malia, 1). The idea that all people had the right to subsistence and the avocation of social equality was clearly demonstrated by the Sans-Culottes, which overthrew the temporary constitutional monarchy during the revolution in the late 18th century (Kagan, 649). Socialist thought continued and was finally transformed from an optimistic idea to a plan that had a base in reality by Karl Marx. Marx advocated a society in which for the first time in history, no group of people would be oppressed. "Not only are they slaves of the bourgeois class, and of the bourgeois state; they are daily and hourly enslaved by the machine, by the overlooker, and, above all, by the individual bourgeois manufacturer himself" (Marx, 59). Marx's view of capitalism was that workers were being oppressed in a top down manner. He based this on the idea that workers, his so-called proletariat, would come to rule themselves through a revolution, and since the majority would finally hold power over the majority, it would be possible for everyone to work for the benefit of

everyone; mankind. Marx suggested equality would come once private property, profit, and money were done away with (Malia, 15). He explained that society would finally function as it should, simply to improve the human race through itself. Marx's criticism of other socialist ideas in the third and final section of the manifesto makes it clear that he saw his version as the best (Malia, 17). Marx called this version of radical socialism communism. Marx carefully watched the development of industry in Germany, and began to make conclusions. In 1848 Karl Marx and Friedrich Engel's published the "Communist Manifesto", outlining his ideas. This book spread the idea of socialism throughout Europe as Marx finally gave the concept a basis in reality.

In the early 20th century, after communism gained popularity and a party was formed, Lenin, born Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov, sought to instigate a communist revolution in Russia. Lenin believed that professional revolutionaries should institute a revolution, as well as lead the process, instead of the proletariat alone. Once Lenin's Bolshevik party took control of Russia in 1917 it became clear that Marx's ideology wasn't being strictly followed. What Lenin began turned to a powerful dictatorship, and peaked once Joseph Stalin succeeded him and ruled the country with an iron fist. ^{but was it?} This communist nation, Russia, has tainted the modern viewpoint of socialism. ^{why?} During the cold war, America has been flooded by propaganda about communism, and that image still affects people's perception of socialism. Films, radio announcements and comic books, such as "You can trust the Communists (to be Communist)" (piedmont) were common and constantly there to reinforce negative perceptions about communism. The anti-communist mindset still echoes in people's opinions of socialism today. "No matter how many times you try to spin the point it [sic] "isn't communism" you won't convince me. It's the same no matter what" (Viriik). Such feelings are common among Americans, and they will often assert this opinion openly, regardless of their actual understanding of any kind of history. In the 1970's, after

a strong criticism of Stalin's communist policy, the democratic socialist party organized and has continued to support socialist parties and policies to this day (Percy). Democratic socialists want to be as far as they can from authoritarian politics like Stalin instituted. This form of socialism has been gaining popularity because of its difference from communism and its democratic nature.

Democratic socialism advocates many ideas universally throughout its word chapters. There are some fundamental ideological differences between these ideas and ones that capitalism asserts, and even between communism. The first main difference between socialism and capitalism is class equality. Socialism contends that there would be a society without classes, where every human is equal; it is staunchly against racism, sexual bias, cultural bias, and any kind of oppression. Class oppression in capitalist societies can be hard to spot at first, and one could probably live their life fully without even noticing certain things. A large problem in capitalism is that its businesses are profit driven. A contemporary example of this is the Enron scandal. The people running the company lied about profits and embezzled money, and after the lies were uncovered, the company filed for bankruptcy, causing the stockholders to lose their investments, and their employees to lose their retirement funds. Decisions like this happen every day in capitalist societies, a company will cut quality, workers wages, jobs, public investments, and donations to make a higher profit for the few who are in charge of this. Likewise in a communist system the person in charge can exploit profits at the expense of anyone below him. In a democratic socialist society this won't happen because the community running an institution will benefit mutually, as well as the state because profit isn't hoarded at the top. And since it is a democracy whose goals are a mutual benefit, it's very possible for things to be run effectively. Democratic socialist ideology is such that the workers and consumers that are affected by economic institutions should control them (DS-USA).

An issue found in capitalism that can be avoided in socialism is consumer exploitation. In America everywhere citizens look they are targeted by advertising, signs, and even race cars are insisting that they buy a product. An average citizen is subjected to countless hours of advertisements when they watch T.V. or listen to the radio. The news, even, is sensationalized to keep them watching so the station can make money. In a socialist society none of this is necessary. Media will be paid for by and provided freely for everyone, this would be considered a social project, and it would be decided through democratic planning (DS-USA). Furthermore, the production of consumer goods will be controlled by market mechanisms (DS-USA). This removes any need or incentive for advertisement bombarding.

The socialist means to equality extends into the economic sphere. In order to end oppression, a lower class cannot be exploited for a profit by a higher class. "The capitalist system forces workers to sell their abilities and skills to the few who own the workplaces, profit from these workers' labor, and use the government to maintain their privileged position" (SP-USA). This is a huge contradiction to capitalism, in which the government simply gives an outline for treatment of workers. The socialist belief is that the population will not work for individual profit, rather than the profit of everybody. This means that there will be a much more even distribution of resources within the society because there isn't a higher class capable of accumulating great wealth. "The primary goal of economic activity is to provide the necessities of life, including food, shelter, health care, education, child care, cultural opportunities, and social services" (SP-USA). In the capitalist system, citizens aren't automatically provided with any of these as a right, with the exception admittedly socialist policies. The important things that are seen as a commodity in a capitalist society, healthcare, education, etc..., would be a state


service in a socialist society, and thus be distributed more equally, rather than being distributed in a way based upon the unequal income of a capitalist society (Goodin, 39).

A capitalist might question the effectiveness of decentralizing industries. Democratic socialism does favor decentralization, but not disorganization. The concept of social ownership can mean many things (DS-USA). Consumer-goods industries can successfully be run by cooperatives, a cooperative being "a legal entity owned and democratically controlled by its members." (Wiki), while larger industries such as energy or steel would need more state control to ensure effective operation. This all ties back to the idea that social and economic decisions should be run by those whom are affected most (DS-USA).

A common misconception at this point is that workers in a socialist system will be unmotivated. A capitalist will say that if they cannot gain property or class, they will do only enough to get by, or even nothing at all. They will argue that industries will be wasteful as there is no incentive to be efficient since they can't profit from it. This issue is one of the major criticisms of Marx's ideas, because Marx doesn't say why people on the large will succeed. The first thing one must consider regarding economic incentive, is that party ideological statements only profess a guaranteed livable wage. This wage will vary given different professions and positions, to be defined later. The jobs that nobody wants to do, such as janitorial work, will be assured some kind of incentives (DS-USA). The industries can become more successful when their international market expands as well. The idea of social equality may be seen as hypocritical if misunderstood. Democratic socialists, unlike Marxists, do not advocate the necessity of completely equal redistribution of goods. The distribution will definitely be more equal than in a capitalist society, but there needs to be room for some kind of incentive to ensure economic stability. All people will be ensured equal respect, participation, worth, and access to

opportunity (Goodin, 46), which is what will constitute social equality, rather than a strictly even distribution of property.

These socialist ideologies have been implemented through policies in countries throughout the world. There are a number of reasons that a government would like to use their resources to insure the wellbeing of its citizens. The first main reason for this is to provide social stability (Goodin, 21). When people have food and government funded public works, there is less of a chance that there will be social unrest, and it will be easier to make people willing to make “greater sacrifices when required” (Goodin, 21). In a socialist society, the insurance of a livable wage will go a long way to ensure a stable social system, whereas in a capitalist society without socialist policies, exploited citizens can and have instigated uprisings and revolutions. The second important reason policies like this have been instituted is to reduce poverty (Goodin, 26). Reduction of poverty will cause a drop in certain kinds of crime, and add to the overall wellbeing of the state. A key value of democratic socialism is class equality, and in class equality, there cannot be a class of the poor (Goodin, 46). Democratic socialists support these policies because they are along their ideology, as well as bring them closer to having a strong political base. There have been many instances of policies that exemplify socialist goals.



A very good example of a stare with socialist policies is Sweden. A major step in Sweden's early move towards socialism was its wage restraint. Low productivity enterprises were forced to go out of business or become more efficient, and higher productivity enterprises were given a larger worker base from the lessening of low productivity enterprises. The high productivity jobs were given a wage cap, and therefore unemployment was decreased and

inflation was slowed (Huber, 128). Sweden implemented a feminist policy that follows socialist ideology well. Women were allowed sixty days paid leave from work to take care of sick children, and nine months of parental leave (Huber, 243). The childcare policies greatly increased female participation in the party. In education, parents were given vouchers to even the cost of public and private schooling, and allowing parents to make the choice between the two. Sweden boasted impressive unemployment benefits, offering 75% of previous earnings for up to two years (Goodin, 68). Sweden's health care system was also accessible by anyone. During Sweden's "golden years" unemployment was very low, under two percent by 1990 (Huber, 254). Sweden's economy and political system, unfortunately, has reached its pinnacle already. Because of globalization, integration with the European Union, its particular model is no longer viable (Coronel). The example of Sweden shows two things about socialism. First, socialist policies improve the lives of citizens, and secondly, it is a viable system if planned and implemented well. Under the old Swedish system, people were well taken care of, but because of the government's mistakes in anticipation of world change, the system did not work. *yes*

explain
America is an example of a capitalist system implementing socialist policy to improve the lives of its citizens. America has similar welfare benefits as Sweden had, but the benefits aren't as good. There is a maternal leave payment, but it is not as high as Sweden's compensations. America does have old age and unemployment benefits, but they are also not as good as Sweden's. The American unemployment pay is about 50% of previous earnings for 26-34 weeks (Goodin, 70). America's Medicaid helps pay for medical expenses in certain situations through state funds, and the government offers compensation for disabilities through the welfare program as well. These policies do not offer any significant amount of security for citizens, because the reforms of middle 1990's decreased assistance for those with long-term needs (Goodin, 65). "The *✓*

cost-containment gains have come at the expense of worsening access to care for the sicker and poorer in society” (Pierson, 335). The American welfare system reforms exemplify the capitalist mindset in that the budgets have been cut in order to let the rich make more money. If there were higher taxes or more money allocated from highly paid state officials, there would be much more money available to assist the needy. Capitalist mindset, however, does not want this to happen. The American welfare system is an example of very capitalistic states recognizing the need for these kinds of policies.

There has yet to be a successful model of a social democracy. Capitalist and communist countries have impeded possibilities for social democracy so spread. The United States, a large factor in world politics, prefers to institute market economies where it can, and doesn't generally condone socialism. Communist countries, such as china, have too strong of centralized and power craving leaders for a democracy to occur. It is a possibility that this system, democratic socialism, could one day be successfully instituted in some country in the future.

An alternative to the strictly capitalist or socialist ideology is a mixed system. Mixed systems are economies that use both methods in some ways. The United States, while capitalist, is in practice a mixed economy because it has private and publicly controlled parts of the economy. In a mixed economy, it would be possible to have many of the socialist ideological points at work, while remaining in a proven system with little risk. Working within current systems is something the democratic socialist party strongly advocates. “While a minority, we fight for progressive changes compatible with a socialist future” (SP-USA). socialists are working to improve the lives of people everywhere they can, and are willing to compromise and use democratic means to accomplish their goals.

Democratic socialism is a system that has much to offer. It has a solid ideological base of peace, equality, and freedom. Under the socialist system, citizens can pursue any education or occupation they wish, without having to sacrifice rights or freedom to make a high enough income to survive. While not having a model example yet, the ideas and principles behind democratic socialism have been shown to be desirable and feasible. The strictest opposition to this ideology comes from the rich, who make money from uneven capitalistic distributions of wealth. For the oppressed working mothers, disabled, temporarily unemployed, and any people unfortunate enough to be in a low socioeconomic position, it is very clear that there should be a change.

Impressive. A-

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Young Democratic Socialists. "Democracy and Socialism" <<http://www.ydsusa.org/>>

!The paper is now about democratic socialism instead of communism, because this form of socialism is the one with the highest chance of success.!

Autobiog... GOOD, needs title, minor grammatical things

Target=lay audience, educated non-expert

-another working title

Socialism, a cause for concern?

Musein = Marx expert
email *Os Redone*

-introduction

-socialism

-exigency

-what will be looked at

-thesis

Socialism is one of the most misrepresented words in American politics (DS-USA). The common understanding of socialism has been blurred into the same category as communism, which has been the subject of years of propaganda for and against during the Cold War. The lingering ideas spread by capitalist opposers depict communism and socialism as subversive political organizations out to ruin the American way of life. The truth is in fact not that simple. The modern socialist movement is democratic, unlike the bureaucratic communist party (sp-usa). It is important to understand that this party is active, and that socialist policies have been in use in Sweden, Canada, Cuba, and France for some time now (ds-usa). China, on the other hand, is a communist nation that is steadily gaining power and prosperity in the world. To understand socialism one must look what the party is advocating socially and economically. Democratic socialism is a system that has a lot of merit.

-background info

-history

-historical criticism and opposition

Socialist ideology can be traced back to the French revolution (melia1). The idea that all people had the right to subsistence and the avocation of social equality was clearly demonstrated by the Sans-Culottes, which overthrew the temporary constitutional monarchy during the revolution in the late 18th century (kagan 649). Socialist thought continued and was finally transformed from an optimistic idea to a plan that had a base in reality by Karl Marx. Marx advocated a society in which for the first time in history, no group of people would be oppressed. He based this on the idea that workers, his so-called proletariat, would come to rule themselves through a revolution, and since the majority would finally hold power over the majority, it would be possible for everyone to work for the benefit of everyone; mankind. Marx suggested equality would come once private property, profit, and money were done away with (melia15). He explained that society would finally function as it should, simply to improve the human race through itself. Marx's criticism of other socialist ideas in the third and final section of the manifesto makes it clear that he saw his version as the best (melia 17). Marx called this version of radical socialism communism. Marx carefully watched the development of industry in Germany, and began to make conclusions. In 1848 Karl Marx and Friedrich Engel's published the "Communist Manifesto", outlining his ideas. This book spread the idea of socialism throughout Europe as Marx finally gave the concept a basis in reality.

MR

In the early 20th century, after communism gained popularity and a party was formed, Lenin, born Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov, sought to instigate a communist revolution in Russia. Lenin believed that professional revolutionaries should institute a revolution, as well as lead the process, instead of the proletariat alone. Once Lenin's Bolshevik party took control of Russia in 1917 it became clear that Marx's ideology wasn't being strictly followed. What Lenin began turned to a powerful dictatorship, and peaked once Joseph Stalin succeeded him and ruled the country with an iron fist. This communist nation, Russia, has tainted the modern viewpoint of socialism. ← more...

- more on the history of socialism/communism
- why is democratic socialism popular now?

IDEOLOGY

- social ideas/economic consequences
- living/working

Democratic socialism advocates many ideas universally throughout its word chapters. There are some fundamental ideological differences between these ideas and ones that capitalism asserts, and even between communism.

The first main difference is class equality. Socialism contends that there would be a society without classes, where every human is equal; it is staunchly against racism, sexual bias, cultural bias, and any kind of oppression. Class oppression in capitalist societies can be hard to spot at first, and one could probably live their life fully without even noticing certain things. A large problem in capitalism is that its businesses are profit driven. A contemporary example of this is the Enron scandal. The people running the company lied about profits and embezzled money, and after the lies were uncovered, the company filed for bankruptcy, causing the stockholders to lose their investments, and their employees to lose their retirement funds. Decisions like this happen every day in capitalist societies, a company will cut quality, workers wages, jobs, public investments, and donations to make a higher profit for the few who are in charge of this.

Likewise in a communist system the person in charge can exploit profits at the expense of anyone below him. In a democratic socialist society this won't happen because the community running an institution will benefit mutually, as well as the state because profit isn't hoarded at the top. And since it is a democracy whose goals are a mutual benefit, it's very possible for things to be run effectively. Democratic socialist ideology is such that the workers and consumers that are affected by economic institutions should control them (dsusa).

Another issue found in capitalism that can be avoided in socialism is consumer exploitation. In America everywhere citizens look they are targeted by advertising, signs, and even race cars are insisting that they buy a product. An average citizen is subjected to countless hours of advertisements when they watch T.V. or listen to the radio. The news, even, is sensationalized to keep them watching so the station can make money. In a socialist society none of this is necessary. Media will be paid for by and provided freely for everyone, this would be considered a social project, and it would be decided through democratic planning (dsusa). Furthermore, the production of consumer goods will be controlled by market mechanisms (dsusa). This removes

MR

any need or incentive for advertisement bombarding.

Incorporate quotes into
my sentences, impact better

The socialist means to equality extends into the economic sphere. In order to end oppression, a lower class cannot be exploited for a profit by a higher class. "The capitalist system forces workers to sell their abilities and skills to the few who own the workplaces, profit from these workers' labor, and use the government to maintain their privileged position." (sp-usa) This is a huge contradiction to capitalism, in which the government simply gives an outline for treatment of workers. The socialist belief is that the population will not work for individual profit, rather than the profit of everybody. This means that there will be a much more even distribution of resources within the society because there isn't a higher class capable of accumulating great wealth. "The primary goal of economic activity is to provide the necessities of life, including food, shelter, health care, education, child care, cultural opportunities, and social services." (sp-usa). In the capitalist system, citizens aren't automatically provided with any of these as a right, with the exception admittedly socialist policies.

A capitalist might question the effectiveness of decentralizing industries. Democratic socialism does favor decentralization, but not disorganization. The concept of social ownership can mean many things (dsusa). Consumer-goods industries can successfully be run by cooperatives, a cooperative being "a legal entity owned and democratically controlled by its members." (wiki), while larger industries such as energy or steel would need more state control to ensure effective operation. This all ties back to the idea that social and economic decisions should be run by those whom are affected most (dsusa).

A common misconception at this point is that workers in a socialist system will be unmotivated. A capitalist will say that if they cannot gain property or class, they will do only enough to get by, or even nothing at all. They will argue that industries will be wasteful as there is no incentive to be efficient since they can't profit from it. This issue is one of the major criticisms of Marx's ideas, because Marx doesn't say why people on the large will succeed. The first thing one must consider regarding economic incentive, is that party ideological statements only profess a guaranteed livable wage. This wage will ---Modern socialists, the democratic socialist party, see that rewards and incentives need to be given to prevent apathy. But how can they do this while maintaining a classless society? ---- of all, the incentive base in a socialist economy would be different. The jobs that nobody wants to do, such as janitorial work, will be assured some kind of incentives (ds-usa).

Real world Examples

-need intro to political economy

Conclusion

-if socialism is used

-a compromise, mixed systems

-continuation of capitalism

-social ideas/economic consequences

-opposing viewpoints

-negation

Democratic socialism advocates many ideas universally throughout its word chapters. There are some fundamental differences between these ideas and ones that capitalism asserts, and even between communism. The first main difference is class equality. Socialism contends that there would be a society without classes, where every human is equal, it is staunchly against racism, sexual bias, cultural bias, and any kind of oppression. In this system of equality, lies a democracy. There isn't a class of bureaucratic rulers to run things. The government is the people, anyone willing to participate, and therefore the people are being represented in their best interest. There would be community organized cooperatives that would look after institutions.

The socialist means to equality extends into the economic sphere. In order to end oppression, a lower class cannot be exploited for a profit by a higher class. This is a huge contradiction to capitalism, in which the government simply gives an outline for treatment of workers. The socialist belief is that the population will not work for individual profit, rather than the profit of everybody. This means that there will be a much more even distribution of resources within the society because there isn't a higher class capable of accumulating great wealth.

!The paper is now about democratic socialism instead of communism, because this form of socialism is the one with the highest chance of success.!

-another working title

socialism, a cause for concern?

-introduction

-socialism

-exigency

-what will be looked at

-thesis

Socialism is one of the most misrepresented words in American politics (DS-USA). The common understanding of socialism has been blurred into the same category as communism, which has been the subject of years of propaganda for and against during the Cold War. The lingering ideas given to us depict communism and socialism as subversive political organizations out to ruin the American way of life. The truth is in fact not that simple. The modern socialist movement is democratic, unlike the bureaucratic communist party (sp-usa). It is important to understand that this party is active, and that socialist policies have been in use in Sweden, Canada, and France for some time now (ds-usa). China, on the other hand, is a communist nation that is steadily gaining power and prosperity in the world. To understand socialism one must look what the party is advocating socially and economically. Democratic socialism is a system that has a lot of merit.

-background info

-history

-historical criticism and opposition

Socialist ideology can be traced back to the French revolution (melial). The idea that all people had the right to subsistence and the advocacy of social equality was clearly demonstrated by the Sans-Coulettes, which overthrew the temporary constitutional monarchy during the revolution(kagan 649). Socialist thought continued and was finally transformed from an optimistic idea to a plan that had a base in reality by Karl Marx. Marx advocated a society in which for the first time in history, no group of people would be oppressed. He based this on the idea that workers, his so-called proletariat, would come to rule themselves through a revolution, and since the majority would finally hold power over the majority, it would be possible for everyone to work for the benefit of everyone; mankind. Marx suggested equality would come once private property, profit, and money were done away with (melial5). He explained that society would finally function as it should, simply to improve the human race through itself. Marx's criticism of other socialist ideas in the third and fifth section of the manifesto makes it clear that he saw his version as the best (melial 17). Marx called this version of radical socialism communism.

Years later, after communism gained popularity and a party was formed, Lenin, born Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov, sought to instigate a communist revolution in Russia.

-more on the history of socialism/communism

-why is democratic socialism popular now?

— "(x) .

Socialism is one of the most misrepresented words in American politics (YDS-USA). The common understanding of socialism has been blurred into the same category as communism, which has been the subject of years of propaganda ^{g m x} ~~for and against~~ during the Cold War. The lingering ideas spread by capitalist opposers ^{depict} depict communism and socialism as subversive political organizations out to ruin the American way of life. The truth is in fact not that simple. The modern socialist movement is democratic, unlike the bureaucratic communist party (SP-USA). It is important to understand that this party is active, and that socialist policies have been in use in Sweden, Canada, Cuba, and France for some time now (DS-USA). China ^{on the other} ~~on the other~~ hand, is a communist nation that is steadily gaining power and prosperity in the world. To ^{no comma} understand socialism one must look what the party is advocating socially and economically. Democratic socialism is a system that has a lot of merit, practically and theoretically.

Socialist ideology can be traced back to the French revolution (melial). The idea that all people had the right to subsistence and the avocation of social equality was clearly demonstrated by the Sans-Culottes, which overthrew the temporary constitutional monarchy during the revolution in the late 18th century (kagan, 649). Socialist thought continued and was finally transformed from an optimistic idea to a plan that had a base in reality by Karl Marx. Marx advocated a society ~~in~~ which for the first time in history, ^{no} ~~no~~ group of people would be oppressed. "Not only are they slaves of the bourgeois class, and of the bourgeois state; they are daily and hourly enslaved by the machine, by the overlooker ^{have} and above all, by the individual bourgeois manufacturer himself (Marx, 59)." Marx's view of capitalism was that workers were being oppressed in a top down manner. He based this on the idea that workers, his so-called proletariat, would come to rule themselves through a revolution, and since the majority would finally hold power over the majority, it would be possible for everyone to work for the benefit of everyone; mankind. Marx suggested equality would come once private property, profit, and money were done away with (melial5). He explained that society would finally function as it should, simply to improve the human race through itself. Marx's criticism of other socialist ideas in the third and final section of the manifesto makes it clear that he saw his version as the best (Malia, 17). Marx called this version of radical socialism communism. Marx carefully watched the development of industry in Germany, and began to make conclusions. In 1848 Karl Marx and Friedrich Engel's published the "Communist Manifesto", outlining his ideas. This book spread the idea of socialism throughout Europe as Marx finally gave the concept a basis in reality.

In the early 20th century, after communism gained popularity and a party was formed, Lenin, born Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov, sought to instigate a communist revolution in Russia. Lenin believed that professional revolutionaries should institute a revolution, as well as lead the process, instead of the proletariat alone. Once Lenin's Bolshevik party took control of Russia in 1917 it became clear that Marx's ideology wasn't being strictly followed. What Lenin began turned to a powerful dictatorship, and peaked once Joseph Stalin succeeded him and ruled the country with an iron fist. This communist nation, Russia, has tainted the modern viewpoint of socialism. During the cold war, America has been flooded by propaganda about communism, and that image still affects people's perception of socialism. Films, radio announcements and comic books, such as "You can trust the Communists (to be Communist)" (piedmont) were common and constantly there to reinforce negative perceptions about communism. The anti-communist mindset still echoes in people's opinions of socialism today. "No matter how many times you try

to spin the point it [sic] "isn't communism" you won't convince me. It's the same no matter what (Viriik)." Such feelings are common among Americans, and they will often assert this opinion openly, regardless of their actual understanding of any kind of history. In the 1970's, after a strong criticism of Stalin's communist policy, the democratic socialist party organized and has continued to support socialist parties and policies to this day (Percy). Democratic socialists want to be as far as they can from authoritarian politics like Stalin instituted. This form of socialism has been gaining popularity because of its difference from communism and its democratic nature.

Democratic socialism advocates many ideas universally throughout its word chapters. There are some fundamental ideological differences between these ideas and ones that capitalism asserts, and even between communism. The first main difference between socialism and capitalism is class equality. Socialism contends that there would be a society without classes, where every human is equal; it is staunchly against racism, sexual bias, cultural bias, and any kind of oppression. Class oppression in capitalist societies can be hard to spot at first, and one could probably live their life fully without even noticing certain things. A large problem in capitalism is that its businesses are profit driven. A contemporary example of this is the Enron scandal. The people running the company lied about profits and embezzled money, and after the lies were uncovered, the company filed for bankruptcy, causing the stockholders to lose their investments, and their employees to lose their retirement funds. Decisions like this happen every day in capitalist societies, a company will cut quality, workers wages, jobs, public investments, and donations to make a higher profit for the few who are in charge of this. Likewise in a communist system the person in charge can exploit profits at the expense of anyone below him. In a democratic socialist society this won't happen because the community running an institution will benefit mutually, as well as the state because profit isn't hoarded at the top. And since it is a democracy whose goals are a mutual benefit, it's very possible for things to be run effectively. Democratic socialist ideology is such that the workers and consumers that are affected by economic institutions should control them (DS-USA).

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huge contradiction to capitalism, in which the government simply gives an outline for treatment of workers. The socialist belief is that the population will not work for individual profit, rather than the profit of everybody. This means that there will be a much more even distribution of resources within the society because there isn't a higher class capable of accumulating great wealth. "The primary goal of economic activity is to provide the necessities of life, including food, shelter, health care, education, child care, cultural opportunities, and social services." (SP-USA). In the capitalist system, citizens aren't automatically provided with any of these as a right, with the exception admittedly socialist policies. The important things that are seen as a commodity in a capitalist society, healthcare, education, etc..., would be a state service in a socialist society, and thus be distributed more equally, rather than being distributed in a way based upon the unequal income of a capitalist society (Goodin, 39).

A capitalist might question the effectiveness of decentralizing industries. Democratic socialism does favor decentralization, but not disorganization. The concept of social ownership can mean many things (DS-USA). Consumer-goods industries can successfully be run by cooperatives, a cooperative being "a legal entity owned and democratically controlled by its members." (Wiki), while larger industries such as energy or steel would need more state control to ensure effective operation. This all ties back to the idea that social and economic decisions should be run by those whom are affected most (DS-USA).

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These socialist ideologies have been implemented through policies in countries throughout the world. There are a number of reasons that a government would like to use their resources to insure the wellbeing of its citizens. The first main reason for this is to provide social stability (Goodin, 21). When people have food and government funded public works, there is less of a chance that there will be social unrest, and it will be easier to make people willing to make "greater sacrifices when required (Goodin, 21)." In a socialist society, the insurance of a livable wage will go a long way to ensure a stable social system, whereas in a capitalist society without socialist policies, exploited citizens can and have instigated uprisings and revolutions. The second important reason policies like this have been instituted is to reduce poverty (Goodin, 26). Reduction of poverty will cause a drop in certain kinds of crime, and add to the overall wellbeing

profit
in int.
markets

of the state. A key value of democratic socialism is class equality, and in class equality, there cannot be a class of the poor (Goodin, 46). Democratic socialists support these policies because they are along their ideology, as well as bring them closer to having a strong political base. There have been many instances of policies that exemplify socialist goals.

A very good example of a state with socialist policies is Sweden. A major step in Sweden's early move towards socialism was its wage restraint. Low productivity enterprises were forced to go out of business or become more efficient, and higher productivity enterprises were given a larger worker base from the lessening of low productivity enterprises. The high productivity jobs were given a wage cap, and therefore unemployment was decreased and inflation was slowed (Huber, 128). Sweden implemented a feminist policy that follows socialist ideology well. Women were allowed sixty days paid leave from work to take care of sick children, and nine months of parental leave (Huber, 243). The childcare policies greatly increased female participation in the party. In education, parents were given vouchers to even the cost of public and private schooling, and allowing parents to make the choice between the two. Sweden boasted impressive unemployment benefits, offering 75% of previous earnings for up to two years (Goodin, 68). Sweden's health care system was also accessible by anyone. During Sweden's "golden years" unemployment was very low, under two percent by 1990 (Huber, 254). Sweden's economy and political system, unfortunately, has reached its pinnacle already. Because of globalization, integration with the European Union, its particular model is no longer viable (Coronel). The example of Sweden shows two things about socialism. First, socialist policies improve the lives of citizens, and secondly, it is a viable system if planned and implemented well. Under the old Swedish system, people were well taken care of, but because of the government's mistakes in anticipation of world change, the system did not work.

America is an example of a capitalist system implementing socialist policy to improve the lives of its citizens. America has similar welfare benefits as Sweden had, but the benefits aren't as good. There is a maternal leave payment, but it is not as high as Sweden's compensations. America does have old age and unemployment benefits, but they are also not as good as Sweden's. The American unemployment pay is about 50% of previous earnings for 26-34 weeks (Goodin, 70). America's Medicaid helps pay for medical expenses in certain situations through state funds, and the government offers compensation for disabilities through the welfare program as well. These policies do not offer any significant amount of security for citizens, because the reforms of middle 1990's decreased assistance for those with long-term needs (Goodin, 65). "The cost-containment gains have come at the expense of worsening access to care for the sicker and poorer in society (Pierson, 335)." The American welfare system reforms exemplify the capitalist mindset in that the budgets have been cut in order to let the rich make more money. If there were higher taxes or more money allocated from highly paid state officials, there would be much more money available to assist the needy. Capitalist mindset, however, does not want this to happen. The American welfare system is an example of very capitalistic states recognizing the need for these kinds of policies.

There has yet to be a successful model of a social democracy. Capitalist and communist countries have impeded possibilities for social democracy so spread. The United States, a large factor in world politics, prefers to institute market economies where it can, and doesn't generally

condone socialism. Communist countries, such as china, have too strong of centralized and power craving leaders for a democracy to occur. It is a possibility that this system, democratic socialism, could one day be successfully instituted in some country in the future.

An alternative to the strictly capitalist or socialist ideology is a mixed system. Mixed systems are economies that use both methods in some ways. The United States, while capitalist, is in practice a mixed economy because it has private and publicly controlled parts of the economy. In a mixed economy, it would be possible to have many of the socialist ideological points at work, while remaining in a proven system with little risk. Working within current systems is something the democratic socialist party strongly advocates. "While a minority, we fight for progressive changes compatible with a socialist future (SP-USA)." socialists are working to improve the lives of people everywhere they can, and are willing to compromise and use democratic means to accomplish their goals.

Democratic socialism is a system that has much to offer. It has a solid ideological base of peace, equality, and freedom. Under the socialist system, citizens can pursue any education or occupation they wish, without having to sacrifice rights or freedom to make a high enough income to survive. While not having a model example yet, the ideas and principles behind democratic socialism have been shown to be desirable and feasible. The strictest opposition to this ideology comes from the rich, who make money from uneven capitalistic distributions of wealth. For the oppressed working mothers, disabled, temporarily unemployed, and any people unfortunate enough to be in a low socioeconomic position, it is very clear that there should be a change.

eng 101

proposal

- topic

- Why significant, lives, etc.

↳ Who is involved directly

- plan for research

- research Q (neutral)

- annotated b. 4-6 sources

response to autobiographies...

read at least 2, respond to them...

know myself, enter focus, etc...

↓
Social Security

retired

- Baby Boomers

workers who pay SS

- Congress

- president

- big business

thesis^o

antithesis + demand

- ask who benefits

page, page 12 on bridge Monday

(given this I think the best approach
to deal with Korea is this)

U.S.
or global
perspective?

see discussion

- TOPIC NORTH Korea's issues in relation to U.S.

- Why sig. - nuclear weapons

o Research Q.

- leadership

- potential stress... leading to conflict

* Plan for research

- library...

involved
directly

- history of actions by Kim Jong Il

- George W Bush's actions?

- military, surrounding countries, allies

father info.

index of importance

Have some of this done by wed.

21/4/05

Research Journal

← any media
notebook?

Ask questions + Compare sources

include everything but make succinct comments

+ proposals This week +

Ethical source use, ch7.

Integrate + explain quotations

Don't judge initially because it doesn't matter.

fully represent sources, good or bad, confront them.

Contextualize, use brief very well stated quotes.

assert

— look at sources credentials, mention when quoting.

Paraphrasing = still not your idea.

Common knowledge = no citation.

Unpack + explain assertions

- explain, counter other positions

introduce a quote - don't just "something."

Then explain why it's useful

Never start/end paragraphs w/a quote

Research Proposal, beginning of project
Communism, a path to hell or good intentions?

With america being flooded with fear and propaganda regarding "the communist threat" for so long, misunderstandings and obstinency are fairly common things. while communism is related to marxism and leninism for example, this paper is not going to be written with the purpose of establishing a complete and lengthy definition, but rather to lay the groundwork of understanding of what communism is, why it has been implemented, what happened after implementation, and a discussion of the theoretical as well as practical shortcomings and benefits.

some thoughts;

- contemporary significance in china
- historical significance in russia and others
- who benefits? this should be explained
- global as well as local perspectives should be seen

Annotated bib.

1. Socialism and the individual, M.D. Kammari, Foreign languages publishing house, Moscow, 1951

Why? an explanation of individualism in communist society should be included in the paper

2. The socialist idea and revolutionary perestroika, Mikhail Gorbachev, Novosti press agency publishing house, 1989

Why? what gorbachev did is important in understanding why communism failed in russia.

3. How to be a good communist, Liu Shao-Chi, Foreign languages press, Peking, 1964

Why? this is important because it shows early ideology in china's communist party, what it was supposed to be, not what it may be now.

4. Soviet communism and the socialist vision, Julius Jacobson, Transaction books, new jersey, 1972

Why? this book contains many primary sources discussing the shortcomings of russia's communist party in context of the goals of the 1917 revolution

5. The roots of russian communism, David lane, Van nostrand & co. N.Y. -DR. H. J. Prakke & H. M. G. Prakke, assen, 1969

Why? this book explains the social hierarchy and status definitions.

NOTE: these are just my book sources. online and other magazine or newspaper published sources will probably follow. also to be included is "the communist manifesto" by Karl Marx.

English 101

Autobiography

in a house? apartment?
ranch? colonial?

I was born in Lewiston, Idaho in November of 1985. From that time, on until i was six years old, i lived on a quiet street on the outskirts of town. My father, a WSU alumnus, was working as a police officer and my mother stayed at home to take care of me, and three years later, my younger brother. Things at the time were similar to most childhoods, growing up with various pets, making out of town trips to my grandparents' house, learning to ride a two wheel bike. This, however, all changed into something more interesting.

good intro; maybe try to appeal to senses?

I was six years old when my parents told me that we were moving for the first time. As most children would be, i was oblivious to the implications and mostly concerned about the cat i had recently found on the street and adopted. The first time i saw my new dwelling i was very surprised. My parents picked me up from school and drove me many miles past our old house, along the highway following the snake river, to an area next to a large island in the snake. This island, i was later informed, was Chief Timothy State Park. We went up the driveway and i saw the familiar sight of my dad's collection of oldsmobiles, next to an old but remarkable clean trailer. This trailer was to be my house until the sixth grade. At the time i didnt care that i lived in a trailer, but i never should have anyway because i lived feet away from a state park. We had one neighbor, the couple that managed the park, who were good people. I spent a lot of time

interesting detail

i = you
GET THE
IDEA

describe?

exploring the surrounding area, which Lewis and Clark passed through ages ago. I shot my BB guns, looked for wildlife, built forts, caught mantises, found old carriages, chased geese with the dog, and did a lot of things boys of my age would like. Most notably was when at some point I acquired a go kart and the park staff used a tractor to clear a large circle track for me some distance under a cliff near our house. Things continued like this, my father as a deputy sheriff, my mom taking a job later, and myself attending school miles away in town, and when I was older I would sometimes ride with my father on his shifts. In the sixth grade something happened between my parents and my father got a new job in a new city.

sort of hated to follow

more detail:
suggests the child is imaginative

issue

It was a hot summer, and I was riding in our car, my mother driving and my younger brother in the back seat. Our task was to deliver my father's job application to a place in Spokane while he was at work. As things go sometimes, we were on a tight deadline and only had a few hours to go before they wouldn't accept it. Almost halfway there, there was some kind of disturbance and traffic came to a dead stop. After an endless wait, it became clear we wouldn't make it in time, and we stopped in some noname town that was in the vicinity. That was when my mother decided to send it in the mail, postmarked before the due time. It worked and my father got the job.

We rented a nice cozy house with a huge front window on the south hill in Spokane. My father began work at SIRT, which later became WSU's campus in Spokane.

MIGHT WANT TO EXPLAIN SIRT

It was at this time that I got my first computer, and the friends I made in the neighborhood would always come over and we would play a game called Red Alert. My school was a short walk from my house, through a nice neighborhood with tree lined streets. I had some trouble adjusting to school, as I went to private school until this point, but it was something of a learning experience for me. I lived here for about a year until my family's

Gory

improved financial situation allowed us to buy a house.

Once again, i was picked up from school and brought to the new house. This house was much much larger than any i had lived in before. It needed some work but my father readily took care of that. It was at this time that i started junior high, and on somewhat of a whim, joined the music program. That was the extent of the interesting things i did in junior high. Once i got to high school, i stayed in ~~band~~ and did many fun things because of it. Our band went to hawaii and took awards there, went to ~~seattle~~ several times, took national awards in canada, performed for several olympic ceremonies, performed on a battleship, did many community programs, went to new york, went to washington DC, and won the lilac parade competition among other things, all in the time i was in it. Along with band, i was busy working in high school, first at a ~~drag strip~~, then at wendys then arbys. These all were secondary concerns to my hobbies, which were mostly racing and car stereos. When i was fifteen my grandfather died and left me one thousand dollars, which i bought a beat up cutlass convertible with, and have been working on, fixing, and racing to this day. In my senior year, my family hosted an exchange student from poland. We quickly became best friends and due to our very similar personalities and interests, and were mostly inseperable. I didn't work very hard in high school but i managed to have fun but most importantly reach my goal, which was to go to WSU.

which is banned?

drag?

SEEMS TO BE THE NORM AROUND HERE.

Transcript?

People often say they are the sum of their experiences. But what does that mean to me? Does the idea of "Know thyself" find a place in this context? I think it does. Fortunately, I realized early enough that I can learn just as much from bad examples as from good ones. That being said, there are certain things I will never do because I know firsthand the effect that can occur. There are goals I have set to prevent history from

repeating itself as well. I like to consider myself an optimistic pragmatist. Therefore being honest with myself is crucial. If I don't set a goal and consider my angles as they really are, I will probably fail and be dissatisfied. I am introspective and because of this I have realized that if I am not honest with my feelings to others, I am only hurting myself, because matters will not be as they should be. Although somewhat critical, I am less likely to fault honest people. Montaigne, in his essay on presumption, said something of truth that helps illustrate my standpoint; "A generous should never disguise its thoughts. But willingly reveal its inmost depths. It is either all good, or at least all human."

- PAPER DOES A GREAT JOB OUTLINING THE EVENTS THAT SHAPED YOUR LIFE.
- GREAT CHOICE OF CONTENT.
- MAYBE CONSIDER LIMITING THE CONTENT ABOUT YOUR BAND DAYS SO YOU DON'T EXCEED 3 PAGES.
- YOU MIGHT STRAIGHTEN OUT A FEW KINKS THAT I CIRCLED.

English 101
Autobiography

I was born in Lewiston Idaho in November of 1985. From that time, on until I was six years old, I lived on a quiet street on the outskirts of town. My father, a Washington State University alumnus, was working as a deputy sheriff. My mother stayed at home to take care of me, and three years later, my younger brother. I was happy with the way things were, as most children are. Things at the time were similar to most childhoods, growing up with various pets, making out of town trips to my grandparents house, learning to ride a two wheel bike. This, however, all changed into something more interesting.

I was six years old when my parents told me that we were moving for the first time. As most children would be, I was oblivious to the implications and mostly concerned about the battle scarred gray and white cat I had recently found on the street and adopted. My parents picked me up from school and drove me many miles past our old house, along the highway following the Snake river, to an area next to an large island in the Snake. This island, I was later informed, was Chief Timothy State Park. We went up the driveway and I saw the familiar sight of my dads collection of Oldsmobiles, next to an old but remarkably clean trailer. This trailer was to be my house until the sixth grade. At the time I didn't care that I lived in a trailer, seeing more stars the first night there than I'd seen in my whole life made me forget that I had to spend at least my time sleeping in the small trailer. We had one neighbor, the couple that managed the park, who were good people. Sue, the wife of the park attendant, would often make me fish sticks when i would come to visit. Gary, the park attendant, would play nintendo with me on occasion. I spent a lot of time exploring the surrounding area, which as I was told lewis and Clark passed through ages ago. I was always looking for evidence of this, although the most I found was an arrowhead and an old carriage that seemed to have fallen off the cliff near where we lived. I shot my BB guns, looked for wildlife, built forts, caught mantises, agitated snakes, chased geese with the dog, and did a lot of things boys of my age would like. Most notably was when I acquired a go kart from a teary and reminiscent family friend, and the park staff used a tractor to clear a large circle track for me some distance under the cliff. At the time I had a carefree childhood, which I am thankful for.

Things continued like this, my father as a deputy sheriff, my mom taking a job later, and myself attending school in town. In the sixth grade something happened between my parents and my father got a new job in a new city.

It was a hot summer, and I was riding in our car, an unreliable budget forced red and white ford tempo, my mother driving and my younger brother in the back seat. Our task was to deliver my fathers job application to a place in Spokane while he was at work. We were on a tight deadline and only had a few hours to go before they wouldn't accept it. Almost halfway there, there was some kind of disturbance and traffic came to a dead stop. After an endless wait, it became clear we wouldn't make it in time, and we stopped in some noname town that was in the vicinity. That was when my mother decided to send it in the mail, postmarked before the due time. It worked and my father got the job.

Soon after, we rented a nice cozy house with a huge front window on the south hill in Spokane. My father began work at SIRTl, which later became WSU's campus in Spokane. It was at this