National Court Reflection

1. What good are laws and policies if no one enforces them? Explain what a country would become if its citizens and organizations refused to follow its laws? What would happen to civil rights and freedoms if no one fought for them in a court of law? What do my answers to the above questions say about a person’s civic responsibilities?

Laws and policies are useless without a way to enforce them. These laws and policies are useless without enforcement they would become like guidelines which any citizen could ignore. This would lead to a system where citizens could choose which laws to follow and which ones not to. The nation would become like the movie the Purge where no one person has to follow any laws. The state would actually cease to exist, if a nation cannot enforce its laws then the state does not truly exist it would be replaced. In this lawless society factions of governments would arise, people have an inherent need for leaders and structure. As more people settle in a land than the people would want benefits, freedoms, laws and rights. Corporations and private entities would abuse their power without a centralized government, child labor would be reinstated, religious or political persecution and genocide could all happen without enforcement of laws and policies. All of these reasons explain how it is every citizen’s responsibility to respect and enforce the law. If all the citizens in a nation were to break the law the nation would turn into anarchy, people like the idea of anarchy and the lack of government control however do not realize the rights and freedoms they are guaranteed under it. However there is an exception sometimes citizens are justified in breaking the law, if the people feel that their government is being oppressive than the people are justified in breaking the law to return the nation to a free democracy.

1. How should the judicial system (i.e. courts, trials, juries) protect the rights of both individuals and society?

The entire point of the judicial system and the court system is that there needs to be a balance between the protection of society and the protection of the rights of an individual. Judges are critical to the modern justice system they enforce the law while still maintaining individual rights. The problem with the jury system is it creates a system which allows for mob rule, if juries are the sole deciders in cases than it leads to a problem where a defendants rights may be infringed and the jurors may not enforce the law properly. In the book To Kill a Mockingbird Tom Robinson is convicted because the jury is made up of citizens in Maycomb County who are racist and convict Tom because he is of African American descent. In the case against me the jury convicted me because they felt I acted immorally not that I had committed a crime which is what a court of law is supposed to decide. However even though individual rights must be protected the protection of society are important as well. The point of the court is to enforce law and order. Juries allow the people to have an opinion and to interpret whether it is safe to allow a person to live freely or if a defendant is worthy of punishment. Trials give the best balance of power between social order and the protection of rights of citizens. Trials allow people to have a method to plead their case and have fair treatment under the law. However trials also create social order by ensuring the guilty are prosecuted and guaranteeing that people are given fair punishment for the safety of society.