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Reading Response to Harrison Bergeron

In 1961 Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. gave the world an idea to what life would be like 120 years in the future through his Short story Harrison Bergeron. In this story that takes place to 2081. In the story society has become obsessed with equality so much so that new amendments where added to the constitution that mandates that no one is smarter, stronger or better looking. People who are too smart are given earpieces that make a loud sound every thirty seconds to disrupt a persons thought process. People who are stronger have to wear sacks full of metal buckshot to weight them down. To make sure no one is better looking then another they are forced to wear masks. They do this to eliminate the competition between others. During the story the main characters and man named George and his wife Hazel, are watching TV and Hazel noticed how tired George looked and suggested he take some of the buckshot out of his bag. George then goes to explain that he can’t do that because it is against the law. He goes on to mention that if he tried get away with it “then other people’d get away with it-and pretty soon we’d be right back to the dark ages again, with everybody competing against everybody else.” While at times competition can result in negative outcomes. Competition is a necessity in our civilization it helps us accomplish things and helps to provide us many different options to consumers.

A world without competition would be a difficult one. Without competition sports would be meaningless. Without Competition we wouldn’t have many of the technological advance we have today. A world without competition would also effect all consumers. Herbert hoover once said, “Competition is not only the basis of protection to the consumer, but is the incentive to progress.” Here Hoover emphasizes the importance of competition with consumers and businesses. For example lets look at the phone industry. Lets say there was no competition between companies like Apple, Samsung, Windows, and Google but instead there was one phone for everyone called PhoneX. For one that doesn’t give us as consumers any other options to buy there’s PhoneX with on price for everyone. It can also be bad for consumers because if that one company that makes PhoneX has no other competitors on the market there is little to no incentive for them to improve PhoneX. Competition is one of the many ways we push ourselves to improve and do better. Without competition we would not as technologically advanced as we are today.