Paul Steffens

February 18, 2016

Professor Laminack

English 110

Outline

**Articles**

Brandon King- “The American Dream: Dead, Alive, or on Hold?”

Tim Roemer- “America Remains the Worlds Beacon of Success”

King believes that the American Dream is still alive and can still be retained. He states that “today, most people do not strive for a rags-to-riches transition, and instead prefer a stable, middle-class lifestyle.”(611) I agree with him in this proclaim because people today would rather be successful and happy than to be extremely rich. I would so much rather live a successful and happy life being middle-class than being a snobby rich man who does not enjoy life. If one wants to achieve this, they will have to put in a great deal of hard work, but I do feel that this is attainable. Roemer brings up the argument that the United States economy gets too much criticism and people must look at the positives. I agree with him on this, but he proclaims that we have one of the best economies in the world. It seems that having a debt that large and still in a small economic crisis that this claim is mistaken. However the facts are there when he proclaims “our national economy is bigger than those of Russia, Britain, Brazil, France and Italy combined.”(619) These are prestigious countries and verify that our economy is not doing too poorly after all.

I agree with the arguments on both articles, however I tend to agree more with King’s argument and disagree more with Roemer’s argument. King believes that the main problem is not the thought of the American Dream diminishing. Instead, “To many, the most worrisome problem is inequality: that wealth is concentrated into the hands of a rich minority.”(612) The rich are continuing to get richer and the gap between the rich and the poor are widening. The American dream has changed but the gap between the rich are poor are widening, so something must happen in order to reduce the gap. The income inequality gap in the United States is an ongoing problem and must be addressed. Something must be done in order to fix this such as taxing the upper class. I do feel that Roemer’s essay is a little bias and believe he is ethnocentric. He argues that the United States economy is one of the largest and greatest in the world, but gets shielded by constant criticism. The criticism is needed because our economy is not great. It seems to be the topic in every presidential debate and is all over the news. He believes that the United States economy is better than meets the eye. Roemer states, “yes, our high schools need to do better, as reading and math scores and dropout rates show. But when it comes to higher education, we remain a beacon of success.”(620) The first point is the criticism of the United States, followed up by a positive aspect. He is proclaiming that many times they leave out the positives. It is documented that “our national economy is bigger than those of Russia, Britain, Brazil, France and Italy combined.”(619) The United States faces much criticism but is admired around the world and is a great place to live and has a great economy. He seems to address only the positives while leaving out most of the negatives.

Throughout my essay I plan on further explaining King’s argument that the American Dream is still achievable with hard work, but has altered throughout the years. I also plan to find evidence that our economy is struggling and find facts comparing it to other economies around the world. Although Roemer feels that I will be giving it too much criticism, I believe that it needs the criticism in order for it to have a great economy again.