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Engr 30

Reflective writing 4

### **Tragedy of the Commons**

Chapter 8 is focusing on the concepts of engineering and the environment. In this chapter, we talk about 3 specific groups that people tend to fall into. Subminimal attitude is thinking about what the minimal a person can do to meet environmental regulations. This is highly discouraged by today's standards because it would effectively mean that, in terms of a company, there is no one who is strictly assigned to tackle any environmental issues there may be. Before we became more aware of our impacts on the environment, we viewed the planet as having infinite resources to sustain our lifestyle. This caused minimal to no regulations and in turn led us to where we are today.

The next couple is where I believe we are, and it is exiting the minimalist attitude and entering a more progressive attitude. We are slowly trying to tackle pollution on an individual basis, such as trying to reduce carbon emissions by a certain year or being completely neutral. Of course, being progressive means that leaders of countries and companies whole-heartedly believe in any changes needed to reduce pollution, and will spare no change. A nice example that is given in chapter 8 that relates back to the article is number 4 , which mentions energy conservation.

In the article, the author also mentions about mutual coercion and relates it to someone robbing a bank. In this case, we view stealing money in this manner to be horrible, however taxes is mutually agreed upon. If we were to find a way to regulate our behaviors by finding a

mutual rule that we should follow, and a punishment if we break that rule, we would be able to tackle sustainability much better. One way is by awarding sustainability, we go off of LEED awards for construction projects that prove to be sustainable and whatever company tends to be associated with the building would receive praise.