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In the Introduction to “Class in America—2012,” Gregory Mantsios provides information designed to inform the reader of class differences in the United States and its wealth distribution. Specifically, Gregory Mantsios argues that people need to recognize how much their income in comparison to others affects themselves. He argues that once people realize how much better off they could be, they’ll rise up to obtain this fairer distribution of wealth. As the author himself puts it “ –[W]hat holds them down from realizing their potential as healthy, creative, productive, individuals- we find institutional forces that are largely beyond individual control. “ Although some believe that social classes do not exist and that everyone has an equal chance to wealth in America, Mantsios insists that it is physically impossible for a poor individual to work their way to the status of the upper class. In sum, their view is that the gap between social classes needs to decrease because the lower class can greatly benefit from a fairer wealth distribution. The majority of Americans can benefit greatly from a lesser gap in the wealth distribution.

I agree with Mantsios argument that people should recognize the wage gap to truly understand the benefits they could be getting but are not. In my view, the information that Mantsios provides leaves a substantial point on the reader of his argument. He includes many statistics to logically appeal to the reader over many of his points. He also uses an appeal to emotion by showing examples of people who closely resemble ourselves or people close to us. For instance, he includes the real life examples of three distinct people on the economic spectrum. In addition, he adds in the chart basing around SAT scores directly correlating to the family income. Some might object, of course, on the grounds that if one were to try harder than everyone around them, they could work their way to the top. Yet, I would argue that without a change in how government is, that is an unreachable goal. Overall, I believe that we need to close the huge wage gap and help American’s as a whole.

Questions Referring to Richard Wolff.

Why is capitalism so widely used, when it as a system, has so many errors and has periodically failed us?

Is Marxism the solution to a failing capitalistic state?

If Marxism is the solution, why hasn’t it been adopted yet, and why aren’t other countries benefitting from it?

What makes Socialism an “idealistic economy”?

Where will capitalism take America in future years?