Dessa Shapiro

Period 1

1/18

Synthesis Essay- How to let go of the world

In the past century and especially in more recent years humans have started a new age of technology and advancement. Production has never been so high and the population accommodates, the increase in demand throughout the world has led to oil farming and the search for fossil fuels to power factories and generate more wealth. All of this production and power have negatively impacted the earth’s climate in many ways. And we as a society have been witness to the effects, such as the natural changes in weather, the increase, and severity of natural disasters. And everyone has heard about the social issues that follow such as global poverty and conflicts with exportation and the general economy. While it may be true that production and technology can bring benefits to society, of far greater importance is the recognition and prevention of the current climate-related issues caused by production and technology.

The issues related to climate change are global issues. It is not something that follows borders, or something that can be traced back to a single source. One of these issues is occurring in Beijing, China, where the air quality is so bad and polluted that people prefer to stay in their homes, children can't play outside, and every home has at least one air filter. China is one of the largest producing countries, the country is littered with factories that create all sorts of different products. And then ship these items across the world. Although China is a large part of the production industry and continues to be the current material-oriented national economy, there are more important aspects to focus on. The larger concept of production in the world is now very integrated into human civilization. There is an idea of “If I want something I can have it” and with the systems of exportation and importation, along with advances in transportation technologies, this idea is accurate. But people neglect to consider the reality of what is happening when all they are doing is clicking a button and ordering their items. They fail to consider the millions of people unable to leave their homes due to the fumes contained in the very air they breathe. This enforces the importance of recognition, and that before anyone can act, they first need to have people listen and understand. Or there will always be people working against you, and negating your efforts.

Change is a very difficult thing to accomplish, it is almost impossible to truly impact a large population of people, and to push them to believe and recognize something, even if you have solid evidence. Charles Esinstine, a climate activist and speaker, holds some of the same beliefs and principles.``People are not going to be frightened into caring. Scientific predictions about what will happen 10, 20, or 50 years in the future are not going to make them care, not enough.” Charles recognizes that the root of the current climate issues is people, and people are the ones who need to fix them. And the importance of unity in relation to progress, for as much as a single person tries, it will never amount to what could be completed with a group. Charles also brings up examples of past actions that demonstrate human unity and resilience. “True, the standing rock movement failed to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline, yet it revalued the tremendous latent power in that so many people were willing to go to such great lengths in defense of what is sacred'' He is explaining that people do have power, and even if it technically ends in failure, there is always to success of spreading the message. Or getting people to care and wake up. He also includes a message of love and states that “It is a revolution of love.” Meaning that at the end of the day, what matters is not the numbers or statistics. But what truly matters are the actions of people towards each other, and towards the planet.

In order to get people to recognize the current climate issues, first they have to be willing to change how they view life. Currently the world is generally centered around money, it is what everything is valued with, people items and entire lives. And for most it is a lifeline, which leads to life or death. And this reality has lead to the prevention of progress. There are hundreds of big corporations throughout the world that are willing to mine coal and oil without a second thought in order to gain profit. But there are people who are able to separate from this lifestyle such as the environmentalists from Amazon who work freely and cleans the rainforest from oil spills. And works to prevent deforestation, and protects the rights of the land and the animals living on them. One activist was someone who happily admitted to being “poor” in the opinion of others, and said something along the lines of “ I might be considered poor, but I am rich in nature, I have water to fish, land to grow food, and a community.” These people show that it is possible to find a different perspective regarding life and how we regard and tread the environment, and the world that provides for us.

The effect on the climate is not something that can be ignored for any length of time. There are too many people who are unwilling to accept the issue that they have contributed to creating. And their current stubbornness and denial, are only further contributing to the problems; Because overall in order to restore what humankind has been destroying, everyone has to work together and recognize the problem, and to see that we are the ones affected. By doing nothing, people are only hurting themselves and the future civilization. The earth will most likely continue to survive in one way or another. But people might not. The question is if you want to continue to poison the ground and air, or if you want to be able to live harmoniously with your home