The Claim: “For young adults, the prospects in the workplace, even for the college-educated, have rarely been so bleak.”

The claim is essentially the thesis of this essay, “a statement or theory that is put forward as a premise to be maintained or proved.” This statement sums up what the entire purpose of the essay is and it is the conclusion that all facts will lead to. This is an example of a claim of fact where, jobs for young adults have rarely been so bleak, is the fact that all the data supports.

Supporting Ideas and Supporting Evidence:

1. Unemployment is high in age group 18 to 29

* unemployment rate is nearly 14%
* 23% are not even seeking jobs
* according to Labor Statistics, this 37% is the highest in three decades
* 17% of the college educated are unemployed or not seeking work, a record level
* this unemployment of 5.5% with education is nearly double what it was on the eve of Great Depression and highest by almost two percentage points since record was kept

1. Young are beginning to have damaged self-confidence

* Expert Opinion: Young men in particular lost a sense of direction.
* Expert Opinion: They are definitely more risk-averse and more likely to fall behind.
* graduates during 80’s recession earned up to 30% less in first three years than graduates during a strong economy.
* many hard pressed millennials fall back on parents and many have college debt
* percentage of multiple generations in household rose a percentage point in 2008

1. Many millennial’s seem to hopelessly strive for independence

* story of Scott’s friends who are unemployed, not happily employed or forced back to school to get more education.
* story of Scott struggling to find work. Putting up fences, mowing lawns, etc.
* Though Scott graduated with good grades, he is turned down when applying for management training at Hanover International

1. Times have changed

* story of how Scott’s grandpa did not need education in his time to become successful
* story of how Scott’s dad became successful with college education

Warrants that support the claim

* Jobs should be easy to obtain with a college education.
* Employment is unusually low across the board for millennials.
* The young should be confident and have a sense of direction.
* College graduates should be self-sufficient and not need to live with their parents.
* College graduates should be able to find enjoyable work.

**MLK’s “Letter from Birmingham Jail”**

“Letter from Birmingham Jail,” written by Martin Luther King, is a response to a fellow clergyman justifying his presents in Birmingham jail, or more specifically, his use of “direct action” or mass protesting in Birmingham. The claim in this letter would be, “…I am in Birmingham because injustice is here.” In my own words the claim is that MLK is in jail because injustice is in Birmingham and “direct action” was necessary in order to bring change. A warrant to this claim would be that injustice should not exist or that one should not be imprisoned for attempting to bring justice. The first supporting idea is that there is good reason for the demonstrations happening in Birmingham. His evidence for this is listing the four steps in a non-violent campaign, the fourth being direct action. MLK then tells how each of the first three steps has been fruitless and direct action was necessary to bring justice. Another supporting idea is MLK’s response to the idea that his protesting was untimely in the wake of a new administration. His evidence is that both administrations are segregationists and must be prodded before it will act. Also stated that there have been no gains in civil rights without determined legal and nonviolent pressure, as well as the fact that privileged groups seldom give up privileges voluntarily. He also uses ethos arguments that the reader has not experienced family members murdered by mobs or the injustice of blacks and the poverty they live in. Warrants for this would be that whites don’t fully understand the racism that occurred in this period. Another might be that the reader does not understand the steps that led to this direct action. Another supporting idea was MLK’s response to concern over his willingness to break laws. His evidence is that some laws are unjust and not rooted in external or natural law and that degrades human personality. The reference to Saint Augustine’s definition of unjust laws may also be considered evidence. Another piece of evidence is that there are methods used in Alabama to prevent blacks from becoming registered voters so who can say segregation laws were democratically elected. He also makes a point that he respects the institution of law so much, he is willing to sit in jail to bring attention to the community over its injustice. Possibly the best piece of evidence was when he said everything Hitler did in Germany was “legal” and then talked about other infamous events in regard to legality. Warrant to this supporting idea might be that he assumes the reader respects the moral from stories in the bible. He also assumes the reader knows that there is a difference between just and unjust laws and maybe assumes that the reader is not considering some of the infamous historical examples of unjust laws. Another main point was MLK response to the clergyman calling him an extremist. MLK did not think of himself as an extremist because of his strong non-violent message and believed that repressing these Ideas and discouraging any protest would eventually lead to violence as had happened before in history. He then argued that being an extremist is not a negative thing. He talked about great people in history that made changes by being extremists like Jesus, Abraham Lincoln, etc. MLK assumes that any protest would be extreme in the reader’s eyes if his was viewed as extreme. Also assumes that the reader is not taking into consideration some of the many extremists in history which helped to make positive improvements in society.