**Issue 3: Is OSHA working effectively to protect the safety of construction workers?**

Safety of employees has been and always will be a major part of business management. When a worker is injured on the job, whose responsibility is it? It is argued that the employer must be responsible, but as deaths and injuries are becoming more prominent in the workplace fingers have begun to point towards OSHA for not performing as they should. OSHA is the occupational safety health administration that operates under the US Department of Labor. This branch of the department has one purpose; to ensure the safety and well being of the working force of the US, which brings us to the burning question. Is OSHA working effectively to protect the safety of construction workers?

Many people will agree that yes, OSHA is doing all that they can to protect our workforce. Amelie presented Edwin G. Foulke Jr.'s pro-OSHA side of the argument and supported it with many excellent arguments and comments. She mentioned that the organization is working very efficiently and effectively stating that during the first year of existence they issued 74,816 citations in just the construction industry. She reverberated Foulke's statement which said that the construction industry is constantly changing, and it would be completely unreasonable to hold OSHA accountable for having to monitor every single work site. They will work to inspect as many job sites as possible and find and resolve any safety violations, but, in the end it all comes down to the employer acting in a responsible manner and preventing the hazards before they become a problem. Amelie pushed the idea that OSHA is there to create and enforce the rules and regulations which help reduce hazards in the workplace, but the businesses are responsible for making sure the employees and machinery are working and operating in a safe and reliable manner.

On the other side of the fence, we had Domanique presenting the no argument, written by Mark H. Ayers. Although presentation was very well organized and the topic was argued passionately I do not agree with the arguments made. Mark Ayers's biggest downfall was the lack of applicable statistics in his writing, which made the presentation of the argument much more difficult for Domanique. The author stated that because the construction industry is so large that OSHA needs to enact a mandatory 10 hour training class for every single worker in the force, a crane safety standard must be created, OSHA needs to increase enforcement activities, create a construction safety organization, and receive an increase in funding. These "solutions" sound like a great idea, until you look at the current size and organization of OSHA. The money and manpower isn't there to create these new systems any time soon, it isn't even there to monitor the entire construction industry! Although Domanique made several very good arguments saying that the current injury and death rates have gone up significantly, and many of the regulations need to be modified and created to better regulate today's largest problems, my opinion was not swayed due to the complete lack of specific statistics showing that OSHA is failing.

Amelie and Domanique fought a very difficult battle representing the sides of Foulke and Ayers, but in the end my decision was definitive. I believe that at its current capacity OSHA is performing as well as it possibly can, and possibly better than I had expected. Despite Domanique saying that the current death and injury rates have gone up significantly and that OSHA has only inspected less than 20% of current construction sites, that number is still much higher than I would have ever expected. As Amelie said, even one life saved by the actions of OSHA is an improvement, and this I agree with this statement wholeheartedly.