

Dean Gladish

The Inquiry Contract

My general research subject is poverty, and my specific area of research is the failure of small business. In this research of the causes and solutions for small business failure as a cause of poverty, I expect to find several options for improving the probability that a small business may succeed. I will enter my research topic with the knowledge that the poverty of a community is often caused by the loss of employment at a former business. I am also aware that small businesses can spread their wealth by offering employment opportunities to people who want to enter the job market, and that they are responsible for a considerable portion of employment in the economy. I expect to find differing viewpoints and opinions on the reasons why small businesses fail and their association with poverty. I may learn through research the relation between economic downturns and the abandonment of new business in impoverished areas.

There are many questions that I have regarding small businesses, but there are two questions that are paramount to my interest. The first question is, what is the role of the government in creating or destroying small businesses? This question is important because if it can be answered, then a solution may be found to save small businesses and therefore end poverty. The second question is, can the government, through regulations or financial assistance, help small businesses to adapt and survive in order to improve our economy? If I can understand the influence that bank loans and government intervention have on the success rate of small business, then I will be better capable of knowing how to reduce poverty.

I make the assurance that I have never attended extensive classes on this subject, and that I have never researched and written a paper on this topic.