

Political Socialization Final Essay

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Period 2

For this project, the political party that fits my views for the topics chosen is the Democratic party. The party's platform mainly centers around the desire to gain equality for all people, as well as reform of both the education system and the justice system. The first issue I chose to research was the right to die. Secondly, I chose to research the fight for LGBTQ+ rights. Finally, I wanted to research the death penalty. While researching these topics, I saw two sides to the argument and had to form my own opinion on them.

The first issue I decided to research was the right to die. This topic has been controversial, because some people believe it's a violation of one's rights. The topic of the right to die often concerns those who are in a vegetative state or terminally ill. In the research I did, both cases I researched involved Catholic faith. One case, the case of Karen Ann, the doctors requested a protective order from her family, as not to face "homicide charges" (*A History of the Right to Die*). It also has controversy due to the religious beliefs of some people coming into question in regards to it. On one end of the spectrum, Democratic party nominee Hilary Clinton believes that, when given "proper safeguards and informed decision making" (*The "right-to-die" in America*), the decision is a proper one to have. Alternatively, on the opposite side of the spectrum, the Republican party did not take a stance in their 2016 platform. In the past, however, members of the party have taken the stance of prosecuting doctors and medical professionals who provide this decision to patients. In the past, a former member of the Bush administration, John Ashcroft, was trying to take action against doctors. He believed that doctors that "prescribed medications to terminally ill patients in order to assist with ending their lives" (*The "right-to-die" in America*), should be punished. His advocacy failed, though, because the state of Oregon saw that the federal government didn't "have the right to regulate state doctors" (*The*

"right-to-die" in America). With this issue, I agree with the democratic view that it's a proper decision to make, given the right information and proper protection.

The second topic I chose to research was LGBTQ+ rights. The topic is seen as controversial, because again, it's seen as a violation of religion in some cases. In the first source I used for my research of this topic, the Catholic faith was also brought up. This time, the Catholic faith was mentioned in that they "discontinued their adoption program" (*Gays and Lesbians Should Not Be Allowed to Adopt Children*), or they would "risk prosecution of for its 'discriminatory' practices" (*Gays and Lesbians Should Not Be Allowed to Adopt Children*). This was in response to a bill passed in the state of Massachusetts, where it "ordered the Catholic Church place adoptive children with gay and lesbian couples" (*Gays and Lesbians Should Not Be Allowed to Adopt Children*). There is a running belief in that homosexual couples shouldn't have children, in fear that they will either damage children by "creating obstacles in the normal development of children" (*Gays and Lesbians Should Not Be Allowed to Adopt Children*), or the fear that they would "turn children gay" (*Gays and Lesbians Should Not Be Allowed to Adopt Children*). While the Church denies this, it's still a fear people have to this day. Another source I researched concerned the origins of the fight for LGBTQ+ rights. The fight for rights can be sourced back to Stonewall, a gay bar in New York back in 1969. On June 28, 1969, Stonewall was the subject of a police raid. The article states that, "the police raid was not uncommon; however the reaction of the patrons was extraordinary" (*The Gay and Lesbian Rights Movement in the United States*). The reaction of the patrons was considered extraordinary, because they fought back this time. The article also sources that the reaction "sparked two days of fighting between approximately 400 New York police officers and two thousand gay men and women, especially people of color" (*The Gay and Lesbian Rights Movement in the United States*). In

history, the Republican party is known for their opposition to gay marriage. The Republican party sources their beliefs in the “belief in traditional marriage set by the Founding Fathers” (*Republican Views on Gay Rights*). They also fall back on the fear that putting a child with a gay couple would damage them. The source also states that the Republican party does not “oppose gay rights as a whole, and they recognize states may make their own restrictions on gay couples” (*Republican Views on Gay Rights*). On the opposite end, the Democratic party is in full support of the LGBTQ+ community. The Democratic party aims to end all prejudice against the community, and want to make sure they no longer “face hate in their workplace, schools, or neighborhood communities” (*LGBTQ+ Community - Democrats*). The same source also states the Democratic party is “aiming to end conversion therapy and gaining legal protection for transgender people” (*LGBTQ+ Community - Democrats*). In this topic, I firmly believe the democrat stance is correct. I believe this, because someone’s human rights and such should not be a debate, simply because they’re different from what a majority sees as normal. Just because someone is different, doesn’t mean they should be treated any differently and deprived of rights.

For my whole life, I’ve been surrounded by different people with very different views. Personally, I find it difficult to determine if I agree or disagree with adults in my life. I mainly associate this uncertainty with how different each generation is, and how differently each one was raised. I agree with some things, but disagree with others or simply don’t have an opinion on these issues. I do believe that these varying views I’ve experienced have helped me branch out and do my own research in order to form my own views and opinions. I am very thankful for that, and I do believe that it has helped me grow as a person.

Overall, when it comes to things concerning modern issues, I do agree with the Democrat party. At least, for the two issues I chose I agree with them. The issues I agree with are the right

to die, and LGBTQ+ rights. I chose these, because they're topics that interest me and the sides to them are vastly different in viewpoints. Overall, some of my biggest beliefs are in equality and making sure everyone is treated fairly and equally, no matter what their differences are.

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