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IB English HL1: Period 7

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A Moderate Proposal

Address countrymen

It is of unfortunate matter that our great nation is weighed down by a number of issues. The market for jobs is scarce, the poor can barely feed themselves, proper healthcare is beyond the reach of many, but worst of all, non-countrymen are stealing away the riches of our great nation. Well over one million persons immigrate to the United States yearly and while some of these persons are intelligent and decent human beings from European countries or other developed areas, many are not. It is these others, the poor, the tired, the huddled masses and the tempest-tossed, that snatch away the jobs, food, and life from real Americans. But it is not without hope, there is a solution to aid our fading nation and serve social justice that all can find solace in.

If the *sludge* of our species is determined to infiltrate our borders and make their work in our gilded land without regard to anyone save themselves, then let them come. Let them work here, but for us, without say, and without any pay. They deserve nothing of our spoils. By letting those without proper intellect or lineage do the work they so desperately arrived here to do originally, the immigrants will receive their coveted toil and proper citizens will reap the fruits of their labor while retaining suitable forms of employment for themselves.

Those who wish to enter our nation through the southern border, namely those of Mexican and Latin American origin, possess a natural affinity for demanding manual labor. Already the men work many of our fields and cut our lawns while their women clean our houses and take care of our children. But at what cost to the economy and to the people? Why is it seen fit to reward these laborers with our own gains? They have not the intelligence nor the virtue to demand such an exuberant drain on our finances. Without proper control, an unregulated immigrant workforce is the laziest and most presumptuous group come to exist on this good Earth. How many more peaches could have been harvested last summer if the field hands had not stopped to partake in a particularly good specimen whenever they are out of view of white men? How much shorter could construction take if the laborers did not always stop to break on a whim?

If the wastefulness of such bloated bands was eliminated by a well-trained overseer, however, our economy would flourish with the highest profit margins seen to date. These profits will penetrate every part of our economy and a gilded age of the like never before seen will befall us. The poor will no longer want for bread, the middle class will work but 30 hours a week, and the retirement age will plummet. Our infrastructure will be remade better and more durable with the labor of construction being only that of the wage of an overseer and the upkeep of the work-bands. Such an abundance of food will be grown that worrying about waste will be a thing of the past. With labor properly organized, our nation stands to rise to its highest apogee to date.

Of course, there are more races than those from the south that wish to be part of our great nation. Each can be a useful asset in their own way, no one should be denied from serving our nation if it is their wish to come to America.

Of those immigrants of Islamic nature, some can be given a special task. Many great and honorable Americans die in service to our country overseas. There is great honor to their sacrifice, but what if they did not have to die? For you see my countrymen, there is a better alternative. Muslim immigrants are already prone to extreme measures such as suicide bombings and as such can be fitted with explosive vests controlled remotely by true freedom fighters. On dangerous missions, these expendable tools can be sent forth under pain of a gruesome death if they refuse to comply. For the more tenacious, there is nothing like threatening a man’s family to remind him of his place. They are perfect for such an occupation given their predestination to such activates and many American lives can be saved.

Another type of immigrant?

The market for decent employment in our land is often the subject of much discomfort and worry. The greatest concern so far expressed with using immigrants as a forced labor force is that of a possible deficiency of jobs for deserving Americans. But fear not fellow countrymen, there is an entirely beneficial solution. The immigrant labor force can only grow large enough to pass beyond jobs fit for their type and threaten occupations deserving of true Americans if we let it. If instead, the foremen and overseers of immigrant work groups pushed those beasts of burden farther than most can sustain, their numbers will naturally drop and the bad investments will be weeded out. The immigrants, therefore, no longer exist as a long-term expense with high upkeep, but instead are an immediately profitable boost to production of all manners. The jobs worthy of only Americans will be left for Americans, and everyone will be in their rightful place.

Some of my more naïve correspondents have raised concerns about such things as the “morality” of this proposal. But can they not see the trouble our nation is besieged by? Can they not see that good, well-doing American citizens need their houses cleaned, their food grown and picked by the millions? Is there not no other way to ensure the continued low prices of produce? How else will out yards be cheaply mowed? And on the defense of this great union, do they really wish to risk the lives of our own when perfectly good Muslim children are destined to be gifting their lives for one cause or another? There is no other moral option than to enact this proposal and put immigrants to work as they deserve. After all, they are other.

 Subject: What will you write about? Why?

 Speaker: Describe the point-of-view of the speaker. Your speaker might be a fictional creation, or it might be you, but a specific aspect of you depending on your audience. You would present yourself differently, for example, if addressing the President of the United States than you would if talking to a group of friends.

 Occasion: What prompted your speaker to write about this subject?

 Audience: Describe your intended audience (not me, please).

 Purpose: What do you want to say about your subject on this occasion to this audience? What reaction are you trying to prompt? What idea are you hoping to communicate?

 Writing mode: Which of the three modes (narrative, explanatory, argumentative) will best achieve your purpose?

 Text type: What text type is most appropriate for your subject/audience/purpose? Consider trying something other than an essay. You might write a letter, a speech, a short story, a scene, a pamphlet, a menu, a magazine article, a children’s book, a web-page, a dialogue, etc. Appearance counts! Think about the most effective layout for your text type.

 Style: After you finish your final draft, find and discuss some examples of powerful writing from your piece. Quote yourself and analyze your writing.

• I wrote this satire about immigration, specifically the attitude that is held towards immigrants. I have begun to feel increasingly uncomfortable about the interactions between the affluent primarily white class and workers who either immigrated to the US themselves or are children of such immigrants. Recently, my mother has hired a woman from Mexico to clean our house and watching her work and interact with my parents shows me how clearly and definitively our classes are separated. She treats my parents, and me, as superior persons while she could likely have the higher claim to virtue. I cannot control who my parents hire, but I still have my words. Even if I may not move the opinions of the masses, I am doing something. And so, in essence, I wrote this satire because I feel guilty, guilty that I was born to be higher than someone else due to no virtue of my own.

• I molded my speaker after the speaker used by Jonathan Swift in A Modest Proposal. The speaker is that of very high education and class so that I could follow the strategy of the Juvenal - a Roman poet - who attacked powerful Romans through satirical exaggeration to make his targets appear horrendous.

• As for what prompted my speaker to write about this subject, there is nor a particular event, it was mostly greed and self-focus that drove him.

• My audience is the upper and middle class who either employ lower class immigrant workers or anyone who interacts with lower class immigrant workers. These people and their attitudes determine how classes treat each other and have to opportunity to make society more inclusive of immigrant workers. MEH

• My purpose is, as I have described, to increase acceptance of and improve the attitude towards immigrants who are of a lower class. In my Juvenalian Satire, I exaggerated current treatment of immigrant workers by proposing to turn them into slaves. This was intended to evoke a strong negative reaction to harsh treatment of immigrants. I played heavily on the theme of thinking of these immigrants as “other” and by the speaker’s racist attitude and approach, I wanted to remind the reader that these workers are just like us. They are as human as we are.

• For my writing mode, an argumentative satire fits the best, it is what I designed my entire concept around.

• For this type of writing, an essay really fits best. I imagine it would be possible to convey the same message using a short story in the likes of George Orwell’s Animal Farm, but I chose to go more the route of A Modest Proposal.

• The majority of my essay leads up to my final paragraph as most satires do. In my final paragraph, I used repeated rhetorical questions that span between the “benefits” my speaker proposes and what poor immigrants are being used for today. This blurring of the lines, on topics like cheap produce, housecleaning, and gardening, are meant to strike home on those who do employ immigrants to accomplish such tasks that these really are people on the other side of the paycheck. WORK ON