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ENG1101

December 19, 2022

Final Reflection & Portfolio

Final Reflection

Going into this class, I did not like to write. I always thought to myself that writing was boring and tedious. There was no reason for me to write for me. I saw it as a tedious task that was just required to get credit for my English classes. It all changed when I started to take this class. This class taught me that I am good at writing. This class taught how to express myself in writing.

In the beginning of the class, we read a story on how to read like a writer. From this story I got that, whenever we read, we should grab good characteristics about a piece and use it ourselves. That is how we can write effective pieces. One example of this was in my Unit 3 project. Our professor told us to find an example of the genre we wanted to do. I choose to do an open letter. A model I found was one by Martin Luther King Jr and his Open Letter, *Letter from Bringham Jail*. This piece gave me a guideline on how to make an effective open letter. How to get your point and purpose across, properly and effectively.

One trait I took to from *Letter from Bringham Jail* is the trait of having a specific audience. In my Unit 3 project I began with the heading, "Hello, Lawmakers." Even throughout

my open letter I wrote sentences like, “You Lawmakers have been throwing money into a broken system for decades, and guess what?” These are instances where I let the reader know who my specific audience is. For example, in *Letter from Brigham Jail*, MLK jr. wrote, “You spoke of our activity in Brigham as extreme. At first, I was rather disappointed that fellow clergyman would see my nonviolent efforts as those of an extremist.” He let us know who he specifically wanted to read the letter.

I learned from this class is to take inspiration from other pieces of writing so that I can incorporate it into my own writing.

Another thing that I learned from this class is how to write “Shitty Drafts.” From the beginning from when I started to write, I always hated how I wrote. I always put myself down and got frustrated when I tried to write. Then, when I read a piece called, *Shitty First Drafts*, I learned that my first attempt does not have to be perfect. My purpose for writing my first draft was just to get what I thought, down on paper. I learned that I shouldn’t overthink too much about my first draft. This idea, I applied to my Unit 1 project. I had 2 other characters other than myself in my Unit 1 project. I did not know how to express their emotion, meaning, I couldn’t let the reader know how they felt like.

In the end, I gave the characters in my story, emotion. I did it through dialogue and description of their tone. For example, “Really? She asked mirthfully. Go for it.” Or, “Well, every time I see people of our Hispanic background, I see a little girl translating everything for her mom.” These two instances I attempted to describe what, in this case, my girlfriend’s tone and why she is giving me advice. Her reason, why she wants to put an emphasis on helping others. This way, the reader knows the purpose and the reason why she is a crucial character in my story.

I spent a lot of times rewriting trying to find the best way to give life to my characters. I realized, that writing drafts helped me a lot because each time I wrote, I got better and better. That is something I can take to other classes.

Lastly my Unit 2 project. I had difficulty in doing this project. I was very confused on how to do MLA citation thus leading to a grade that was not as high as the other projects. I am looking forward to revising my Unit 2 project because I know that citing is a valuable skill to learn for any class. Whether I am doing a research paper for a psychology class, or a lab report where I need to cite another scientist. It is a good skill to know. I also learned that is a good thing to proofread your work. I will be doing that now and will include that in my revision.

Another skill that I learned when doing my Unit 2 project was choosing the correct sources. This project taught how to choose credible sources to make my writing more credible. For example, in my project I used Lee, Keat Jin. article called, *Healthcare: Affordable quality converge for all-Head, and Neck Surgery*. This was a peer reviewed source, meaning that it is also supported by people who are expert on the chosen topic. This Project taught me how to choose good sources and include them in my project.

In conclusion, the things that I learned throughout this semester are, choosing good traits from other writings, and see how you can use it. Also, write multiple draft to make sure that your writing is near 100 percent effective in conveying your message to the reader. Lastly, choose good and credible sources and include them in your writing. All these lessons I can take to other classes and make sure that readers, in this case it would be professors, can understand my purpose or the idea I am trying to convey to them. The easier my purpose is identifiable, the easier I can express my ideas to others. I have grown to know that my words have meaning. Even though they are just words on paper, but those words can mean so many things.

Unit 1

Fresa

My mother just received an email and was quick to call me over. “*Hijo*¹, come here,” she said. Her voice sounded surprised, but not in the wrong way. I walked down our hallway, wondering what she was calling me for. She showed me her phone which was always so bright that it blinded my eyes. The big 6.8-inch AMOLED display wasn’t enough for her. “Is this for real or is it a scam?” she questioned. As my eyes heal from the sun that was my mother’s phone, I saw that it was Apple offering a sale on MacBooks. Squinting, I responded, “Yeah this looks legit, it’s weird because they never usually do discounts.” She paused for a moment, then asked, “You want to go with me to the store to go and check it out?” I agreed and got in the car. That same day, I walked out of the store with a polished white bag with a silver Apple logo on the front. To me, this was expected, because my mother asked me what color I wanted a few weeks back.

As soon as I got home, I facetedimed my girlfriend while I unwrapped my gift. It was exciting for me because I have always wanted a MacBook. Sure I had the gaming pc that I had built with the help of my parents, but it wasn’t a MacBook. I wanted both. I told her what I got, and she was happy for me but in a somewhat confusing way. “Wait, why did you get it if you already have a powerful pc?” she asked. “I wanted a MacBook because it looked nice, and it was on a discount,” I responded.

A few days passed and my phone unexpectedly broke. Unfortunately, I depend heavily on apps such as Google Calendar to keep myself organized, it was hard doing daily tasks without a functioning phone. My stepfather offered to get me the new iPhone 13 Pro for a very minimal down payment. This of course is a take-it-or-leave-it opportunity, so I accepted his offer because, why not? I told my girlfriend about my stepfather’s proposal, and her expression and tone of voice were nothing but a surprise. Her voice, almost as if she was scared to question, asked “Oh, that’s cool, but did you ask for the Pro?”

¹ Hijo: this means “son” in Spanish.

“Not at all, I actually asked for the lowest model but apparently I got a higher model.”

“But you really didn’t need it?”

“No, not at all but I am happy nonetheless.”

She went quiet. The silence almost made me feel like I’d committed a mistake of some sort as if an unresolved tension suddenly appeared from her end. I asked her why she went quiet.

“It’s just crazy to me how you get all this stuff without even asking for it.”

“Well, it’s not even that. It’s not that I begged for it. Not like I’m *fresa*²”

“Considering that you got two very expensive things in a matter of months, it’s just surprising to me.”

“Well yeah, but again it’s not like I’m spoiled or anything, I have a job after all. ”

She paused for a moment. Letting out a breath and then simply staying quiet. I asked her, “What’s wrong?”

“Let me ask you something, do you pay anything with the money you get from your job?”

“No, not really. An occasional food or gift for myself.”

“So no bills and not giving money to your parents?”

“Uh... no? What are you trying to get at?”

“So you just have a job because you basically want to?”

² Fresa: a term used by the Mexican community to culturally stereotype a person who comes from a well off family; people who are fresa are described as posh or snooty, with an airy voice of importance and a lack of understanding of real world issues.

“If you want to put it that way, yes, but what is your point?”

“The thing is babe, you’re lucky some kids don’t have that choice. You never had to pay a bill.”

“I’ve paid the occasional Hulu, Netflix, you know, streaming services...”

She chuckled a little. It wasn’t an amused laugh though, that at least I picked up on.

“Since you think you know so much, I can show you I know as much as well. Matter of fact, I’ll list everything one person moving into an apartment must pay to survive.”

“Really?” She asked mirthfully. “Go for it.”

“Wifi bill, food, gas, electricity, water, transportation, subscriptions and that is really it.”

“Hmm...and that’s all?”

“Yeah.. that's really all... maybe...”

“Rent, love.”

Having this disheartening realization, I forgot the most important thing anyone needs to pay in order to live. Rent. Truly made me look somewhat stupid.

“Okay it's just one thing I forgot”

“Look babe I just want you to know that I am very happy for you, that the situation that you were put into was better than mine.”

“What do you mean?”

“You are a bit *fresa*, I mean you are getting all this stuff and I just want to say that usually, kids of our demographic don’t really get that lucky. I see your situation compared to mine, and it is not all the same. I understand people get better chances in their lives and I am in no way hating on that fact, but I just think that it’s a little unfair. Your parents came from a different country with nothing, no family, no

connection, straight from the bottom. Like every immigrant trying to achieve the American dream while you are waiting for the newest tech on the street in your OWN room. What I think you have yet to realize is that you have the American dream already, and I am thankful that you do. I'm glad you got to be at home, on your bed in an online class during the pandemic, rather than slaving away at a register in a fast-food place, while in an online class, waiting for your check to help your parents out with rent."

Listening to this. Being a Hispanic myself and being called *Fresa* by my own girlfriend is bad enough. I just couldn't believe she would go there but analyzing what she had said, I understood that there could be some truth in her words. As a very little kid, when my mother was just a single parent, when watching tv shows I always despised the rich, white snobby kid. This whole conversation was just painting me as what I once hated. Was there anything to save me from that path?

I thought to myself how different my life was compared to my girlfriend's. Yes, we were both from the same demographic, the same age, and the same level of intelligence. One of the things that attracted me to her was that we had a lot of similarities. Even so with all the similarities, our lives were much more different. I didn't feel like what was she saying to me was in any hurtful or jealous way, but I think it was rather enlightening. I didn't really know how other people like me had to live and in a way made me feel bad.

"Love, I didn't know that..." I said very regretfully that I ever mentioned all the gifts I'd gotten.

"Listen, I don't want you to feel bad for me. I am working my ass off as well as you are, to succeed. Get our college degree and feel the success, receive the rewards, and have the status of being up the ladder, and having stability. I am happy that you already have a head start but, in the end, I hope we both are all the way on the top."

Considering what she had said, I admired the fire that she had in her, considering that it was 1 in the morning at this point. I was at the point of falling asleep.

"Also be on top of the ladder and give back," she said proudly.

“How would you want to give back?” I was very intrigued, considering she was going to college to become a doctor.

“Well, every time I see people of our Hispanic background, I see a little girl translating everything for her mom.” She paused for a moment and responded. “What good is being on top of the ladder when you can’t give gold to those holding the ladder.”

Giving back. That is what I was missing. All my life having the life I was given, having stability. She was someone who wanted to achieve stability and goes as far as to give stability. I admire her and I want to start giving back. Having everything for yourself makes one lonely and solidified. Seeing the trees and plants growing around you makes you feel happy about your habitat. Going into the engineering and management field I haven't thought of ways to give back to my people.

“Thanks, love, I want to find a way to give back, To see all of the buildings and bridges grow around me,” I said with pride.

“That’s good, it's always good to look out for the people that give you the life that you have. Hey since you recently changed your mind about what degree you want, which is in construction management right? I realized a way you can give back.”

“How so?”

“You can try and sponsor undocumented immigrants.... Give them a chance to work and give them money to help them achieve the American Dream for themselves and family”

“That is true actually I might have the power to do that.”

“All I am going to say Matthew is... make me proud.”

Unit 2

Introduction

We have a major crisis in our country. It could be education, crime, immigration, or racism. What I am about to say will be surprising to many people, especially to Europeans who in them and their government accept that health is a human right. It's fundamental. Nonetheless, patriots will fight and say the problem isn't a problem and that it should stay that way. The problem is healthcare in the United States. It is ridiculous how much the U.S allows hospitals to charge for basic medical treatment. My research question is, Can the U.S help to bring down the cost of healthcare?

A reason I got into this question is that it baffles me that the government has a say in many things that you do. Your finances, your family, and your education but when it comes to your health, the government throws a blind eye and just throws money at the problem. Another reason I got interested in seeing how other modern countries can have a healthcare system in favor of the citizen, but they spend less of a percentage of their GDP. America pays almost double what we pay per capita in other countries. You would think that since we throw money at health care it wouldn't be such a crisis but turns its a disaster.

What I expect to find in my research is to find the root cause of why the healthcare system got to be terrible. What led the morale in America to change from everyone deserves great healthcare to our drug prices being 4 times more than Canada's? I also want to learn whether there are steps we can take to better our healthcare. What can the government do? This

brings me to my third hope, which is to learn whether or not we can get rid of this terrible system.

Citation #1

Voxdot.com “The Real Reason American Health Care Is So Expensive.” YouTube, YouTube, 30 Nov. 2017, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNla9nyRMmQ>.

Summary

In this video, we are introduced to very alarming statistics. U.S 2013 spent about 16.4 percent of spending on the healthcare system. That is the most out of any other country in the world. We spend the highest percentage based on our GDP compared to other countries. The alarming statistic is the money that spends nearly half of it is spent on the private sector. This is different than other countries most of their healthcare budget is spent on the public sector. Having health care controlled by the private sector has led to high prices in healthcare.

A reason stated by the video is that since programs like Medicare insure most of the population they have more bargaining power, meaning they could negotiate with hospitals to lower their prices. Logically if the hospitals say no to the government, then they will lose all those customers who are in Medicare and turn will lose money. People who rely on private insurance companies than they have less bargaining power because each insurance company caters to different types of groups of people. The hospital can charge different types of insurance companies different prices since regarding those sectors hospitals have different options. For the individual paying by himself, you have no bargaining power. No big insurance company or government is on your side with higher leverage to make it harder for the hospital to say no.

According to the video, there was a study saying that the individual who tried paying out of pocket were charged nearly 4 times as much as individuals with Medicare.

One interesting fact that the video states is that some countries have a “master list”. The master list is what the government says to hospitals and what they can charge for anything medical-related. The problem with this proposal is that the government would be prone to lobbying since these big insurance/hospital companies already have so much power. The video states that the way to go about this is by following the Bernie Sanders Medicare for all bill. Get everyone on Medicare, have the U.S gain more leverage, and Have the influence of insurance companies deplete so that America can finally realize that Government can do healthcare better

Reflection

I do agree with the video Because it does outline the pro and cons of having government-controlled healthcare. It does not only focus on the benefits but also states the bad side effect that it could have “If we decided to create a single-payer system with one of these huge price lists in the US There would be nothing to stop lobbying from hospitals from doctors from drug companies. And those prices would get influenced. So, we could end up with a single-payer system that is expensive. Even as expensive as our current system.” One question about the video is what else is inside Bernie Sanders' Medicare for all bills. Does it help people with pre-existing conditions? Some information I did look up is the actual bill itself. I look through Bernie Sanders's bill to grasp more knowledge on what he is proposing. One thing I would say to this author is how we make this into action. How do we take the information from the video and put it into action? How can we make our problems have solutions? That government can do

healthcare better. That the government needs to stop throwing money and fix the problem. Take all the bargaining power.

Quotation

“That plan, on its own, it wouldn't get American health care spending far down overnight. But it would at least begin to recognize what we already know and what most other countries already do That health care is one of those things the government can do cheaper and better than the private sector.”

Citation #2

Lee, Keat Jin. ‘Healthcare: Affordable quality coverage for all. Otolaryngology-Head, and Neck Surgery 140.6 (2009): 775–781. Web.

Summary

This article explains solutions to help better healthcare in our country. Gives a list of 20 effective steps some of which stress the importance of having government-regulated healthcare. Important parts of this article are where the author states that the United States government spends 16% of its national GDP on the healthcare system. That is about 2.3 trillion dollars. Even so, 46 million Americans are uninsured the article states. Before, the way an American would handle his/her health is going to the doctor and talking confidentially. There were no outside influences such as insurance companies or the government. Insurance companies have gotten more control over the years.

With that in mind, of the money that the U.S government throws into the healthcare system, 20%-30% of that money goes to administrative costs. Articles state that if you included

the profit margins of executives the percentage would be higher. Insurance companies decide whether you need a procedure or not. Not the doctor. Executives who have little to no medical background have their health in their hands. The United States has just thrown money into the healthcare system for years now and left it up to insurance companies to take care of America's health. Leadership is needed the article states, someone or something to establish the precedent that healthcare is a right. The article goes on about how the United States throwing money at the problem is not going to fix anything and continues to list steps to make our healthcare more advanced. The author conveys that healthcare should not be seen as a for-profit business, but as a natural human right for all.

Reflection

Looking at the statistics stated by the article, every year the government has just thrown money into the healthcare system and over the years our system has not gotten any better. This makes me believe that the way the government can act and make healthcare better for all of us is to become the main provider of healthcare for all Americans and for government to establish the precedent that healthcare is a right.

I agree with the article because it does agree that everyone should have access to Medicare, and those who don't qualify can buy in. This gives leverage to the U.S government and so the government can take control in negotiating lower prices. One thing I was not very clear about in the article is how much government can extend its reach in healthcare until it becomes like the insurance company system we have right now. Some external sources I looked at to better my understanding of the text are a list of the best healthcare systems in the world.

This gave me a broader understanding of how every modern country is ranked in healthcare. It helped me understand the severity of the situation that the United States ranked last.

One thing I would say to the author has their proposal and steps reached congress. Have they put any effort into getting their proposal heard by lawmakers? This document answers my question, that the way we fix healthcare is with a precedent set by the government that healthcare is a right. That way we can lower drug prices, ER visit prices, etc. Have government control over healthcare.

Quotation

“As a country, we have strayed from common sense and become overcome with greed. Just as fire can cook our food and keep us warm, but can also destroy our homes, proper implementation of reform can help us, but improper implementation can destroy the system.”

Citation #3

“Why American Healthcare Is the Worst in the Developed World.” YouTube, YouTube, 17 Apr. 2020, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wO1IoKN0AkY&t=395s>.

Summary

Reiterating what the last two citations are saying that American Waste the most on health care per capita. We are not seeing a correlation though of more money, and better quality. Our healthcare is subpar to other countries. A statistic stated by the video is that we don't even cover everyone. About 27 million Americans are uninsured. Even though people who are insureds till struggle to pay their bills, almost 25% of Americans. 63% depleted their savings and 42% had to

get another job. Getting in an accident can put someone in a bad place not even in a healthy way. Drug prices are way higher in this country than in most other countries.

The video goes more in-depth on how the system was before. There were only two insurance companies, and they never refuse anyone. The way it got bad was that employers started offering health insurance and the percentage of Americans who depended on insurance skyrocketed. Then businesses saw the opportunity in the industry. In 1980 the first for-profit hospital was born. These hospitals had big investors who drove up the price of every medical supply. By 1981, 1 in 7 hospitals was for-profit. The video also points out a crucial point. We have seen during the pandemic that medical supplies were not available. You would think that since Hospital is making all this money you would have availability of more supplies, but that isn't the case. Investors have taken the money and pocked for themselves. The video ends with an interview with surprising Europeans about how bad our healthcare is.

Reflection

Do you agree or disagree with the text? Why or why not? Be specific! • Quote the text. •

Like the other article, I completely agree with what they are saying. The reason is that it explained what started the bad healthcare trend. "Hospital's transitioned from philanthropy to corporation was complete." The reason I agreed with. A question I have for this text is how can we stop hospitals from only focusing on profits. What I don't understand is based on saying "America is this way", does this mean we have to change our morals as Americans? Some information that I did look up was how many hospitals now were for profit. The answer is about 1 in 4 now. One thing I would ask this author is whether the only solution to this problem is to get all American to agree on one moral, which is healthcare is a human right. What this

document tells me is why my question is a question. How did healthcare get so bad that we need to start asking how we can make it better? The video gives me information.

Quotation

“America had taken the intensely cruel step of taking something sacred the health and well-being of its citizens and slapping a price tag on it”

Chain of events

Hospitals became a business (for profit) -> How has the government not helped -> Solution to fix it

Conclusion

Concluding my research, I have concluded that our healthcare system needs work. How can America, a nation founded on the principle of life, liberty, and happiness, haven't found a solution to ensure the health of its citizens? Doing this research, I discovered very alarming statistics. All my life I grew up with the idea that America was number one in everything. America is where you go to find the best care. Looking now, with the knowledge I found I can conclude that the U.S has not acted to better the health of its system. This can change. What I found in my research is the way the government can fix healthcare. How can the government help people get access to the best of care without having to suffer financially? In research, I found how it got to this point. The way it got to this point is a series of a chain of events.

Big businesses started seeing the green in healthcare. Due to that healthcare became a business and now only interested the investor in hospitals. The reason it has stayed like this is that the government thinks that just throwing money at the problem will solve it. Not since all

that money usually goes to the private sector. The way we fix this is to have America be the hospital's number one customer. Let everyone in Medicare so that government has more bargaining power to negotiate down prices for us. The more influence government has hospitals are more likely to accept government terms. There must be a watch though because lobbying could be a big problem. We could end up with the same thing we have now. Having Government control we can have less administrative paperwork and thus reduce the cost altogether. What surprised me is how hasn't this Medicare for all bill passed. This could be beneficial to all Americans. Whose fault is it that we don't have this in action? What I learn is important because now we can see a clear solution.

Now we see what we need to do, and we need to enlighten these lawmakers on what is better for all Americans. The first people who need to hear this are lawmakers. With them having the most influence in what goes down in our country they can make a change. Signing things like the Medicare for all bills would be beneficial to all of us and have America move forward into the future.

Unit 3

<https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/pennereng1101fa2022d308/2022/12/07/matthew-velez-u3-writing-assignment-parts-i-and-ii/>

Optional Revision of Unit 2

Introduction

We have a major crisis in our country. What I am about to say will surprise many people, especially to Europeans who accepted that healthcare is a human right. Nonetheless, U.S patriots

will say the problem isn't a problem and that it should stay the same way it is now. The problem is healthcare in the United States. It is ridiculous how much the U.S government allows hospitals to charge for basic medical treatment. My research question is, Can the U.S government help to bring down the cost of healthcare?

A reason on how I got to this question is that it baffles me that the government has a say in many things that you do. Your finances, your family, and your education, but when it comes to your health, the government throws a blind eye and just throws money at the problem.

Another reason I got interested in this topic, is seeing how other modern countries a healthcare system in favor of the citizen. European governments spend less of a percentage of their GDP meanwhile, America pays almost double what we pay per capita in other countries. You would think that since we throw money at health care it wouldn't be such a crisis. Turns out, the U.S system is a disaster.

What I expect to find in my research is the root cause of why the healthcare system got so terrible. What led the morale in America to change from everyone deserves great healthcare to our drug prices being 4 times more than Canada's? I also want to learn whether there are steps we can take to better our healthcare. What can the government do? This brings me to my third hope, which is to learn whether we can get rid of this terrible system.

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With that in mind, the money that the U.S government throws into the healthcare system, 20%-30% of that money goes to administrative costs. Articles state that if you included the profit margins of executives the percentage would be higher. Why is it that insurance companies with no medical background, can decide whether you can get a lifesaving procedure. The United States still throws a blind eye to its people and throws money at the problem. Then it leaves it up to insurance companies to take care of America's health.

Leadership is needed the articles states. Someone, or something to establish the precedent that healthcare is a right. The article goes on about how the United States throwing money at the problem is not going to fix anything and continues to list steps to make our healthcare more modern. The author conveys that healthcare should not be seen as a for-profit business, but as a natural human right for all.

Reflection

Looking at the statistics stated by the article, every year the government have just thrown money into our healthcare system and over the years our system has not gotten any better. This makes me believe that the way the government can act and make healthcare better for all of us, is to become the main provider of healthcare for all Americans. Also, the government can establish the precedent that healthcare is a human right.

I agree with the article because it agree that everyone should have access to Medicare, and those who don't qualify can buy in. This gives leverage to the U.S government and gives control to the government in negotiating lower prices. One thing that was not very clear about in the article is, how much government can extend its reach in healthcare until it becomes like the system we have right now. Some external sources I looked at to better my understanding of the text is a list of the best healthcare systems in the world. This gave me a broader understanding of how every modern country is ranked in healthcare. It helped me understand the severity of the situation. In health care the United States ranked last.

One thing I would say to the author is to ask him if their proposal reached congress. Have they put any effort into getting their proposal heard by lawmakers? This document answers my question, that the way we fix healthcare is with a precedent set by the government that healthcare is a right. That is the way we can lower drug prices, ER visit prices, etc. Have government control over healthcare.

Quotation

“As a country, we have strayed from common sense and become with greed. Just as fire can cook our food and keep us warm, but can also destroy our homes, proper implementation of reform can help us, but improper implementation can destroy the system.” (Lee, K.J., 781)

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In this video, we are introduced to very alarming statistics. The U.S in 2013 spent about 16.4 percent of its spending on the healthcare system. That is the most out of any other modern country in the world. The alarming statistic is the money that we spend, nearly half of it is spent on the private sector. This is different than other countries. Most of their healthcare budget is spent on the public sector. Having health care controlled by the private sector has led to high prices in healthcare.

A reason stated by the video is, since programs like Medicare insure most of the population they have more bargaining power, meaning they could negotiate with hospitals to lower their prices. Logically if the hospitals say no to the government, then they will lose all those customers who are in Medicare and turn will lose money. People who rely on private insurance companies have less bargaining power because each insurance company caters to different types of groups of people. The hospital can charge different types of insurance companies' different prices since regarding those sectors hospitals have different options.

For the individual paying by himself, you have no bargaining power. No big insurance company or government is on your side with higher leverage to make it harder for the hospital to say no. According to the video, there was a study saying that the individual who tried paying out of pocket were charged nearly 4 times as much as individuals with Medicare.

One interesting fact that the video states is that some countries have a “master list”. The master list is what the government says to hospitals and what they can charge for anything medical-related. The problem with this proposal is that the government would be prone to lobbying since these big insurance/hospital companies already have so much power. The video states that the way to go about this is by following the Bernie Sanders, “Medicare for all bill”. Get everyone on Medicare, have the U.S government gain more leverage, and have the influence of insurance companies deplete so that America can finally realize that Government can do healthcare better

Reflection

I do agree with the video because, it does outline the pro and cons of having government-controlled healthcare. It does not only focus on the benefits but, it also states the bad side effect that it could have. “If we decided to create a single-payer system with one of these huge price lists in the U.S. there would be nothing to stop lobbying from hospitals, from doctors and from drug companies. And those prices would get influenced. So, we could end up with a single-payer system that is expensive. Even as expensive as our current system.” (“The real reason American health care is so expensive”, 03:48-04:04)

One question about the video I had is, what else is inside Bernie Sanders' Medicare for all bills? Does it help people with pre-existing conditions? Some information I did look up is the

actual bill itself. I looked through Bernie Sanders's bill to grasp more knowledge on what he is proposing. One thing I would say to this author is, how we make this idea into action? How do we take the information from the video and put it into action? How can we make our problems have solutions? Government can do healthcare better with more bargaining power.

Quotation

“That plan, on its own, it wouldn't get American health care spending far down overnight. But it would at least begin to recognize what we already know and what most other countries already do That health care is one of those things the government can do cheaper and better than the private sector.” (“The real reason American health care is so expensive”, 05:07-05:21)

Citation #3

“Why American Healthcare Is the Worst in the Developed World.” YouTube, YouTube, 17 Apr. 2020, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wO1IoKN0AkY&t=395s>.

Summary

Reiterating what the last two citations, that Americans waste the most on health care per capita. We are not seeing a correlation though of more money, and better quality. Our healthcare is subpar to other countries. A statistic stated by the video is that we don't even cover everyone. About 27 million Americans are uninsured. Even though people who are insured still struggle to pay their bills, almost 25% of Americans. 63% depleted their savings and 42% had to get another job. Getting in an accident can put someone in a bad place not even in a healthy way. Drug prices are way higher in this country than in most other countries.

The video goes more in-depth on how the system was before. There were only two insurance companies, and they never refused anyone. The way it got bad was that employers started offering health insurance and the percentage of Americans who depended on insurance skyrocketed. Then big businesses saw the opportunity in the industry and in 1980 the first for-profit hospital was born. These hospitals had big investors who drove up the price of every medical supply. By 1981, 1 in 7 hospitals was for-profit. The video also points out a crucial point. We have seen during the pandemic that medical supplies were not available. You would think that since hospitals are making all this money they would have availability of more supplies, but that isn't the case. Investors have taken the money that the government gives to them and pocketed it for themselves. The video ends with an interview with surprising Europeans about how bad our healthcare is.

Reflection

Like the other article, I completely agree with what they are saying. The reason is that it explains what started the bad healthcare trend. "Hospital's transitioned from philanthropy to corporation was complete." ("Why American Healthcare Is The Worst In The Developed World", 04:21-04:25)

A question I have for this text is, how can we stop hospitals from only focusing on profits? What I don't understand is based on saying "America is this way", does this mean we have to change our morals as Americans?

Some information that I did look up was how many hospitals now are for profit. The answer is about 1 in 4 now. Lastly, one thing I would ask this author is whether the only solution to this problem is to get all American to agree on one moral, which is that healthcare is a human

right. What this document tells me is why my question is a question. How did healthcare get so bad that we need to start asking how we can make it better?

Quotation

“America had taken the intensely cruel step of taking something sacred the health and well-being of its citizens and slapping a price tag on it” (“Why American Healthcare Is The Worst In The Developed World”, 04:28-04:35)

Chain of events

Hospitals became a business (for profit) -> How has the government not helped -> Solution to fix it

Conclusion

Concluding my research, I have concluded that our healthcare system needs work. How can America, a nation founded on the principle of life, liberty, and happiness, haven't found a solution to ensure the health of its citizens? Doing this research, I discovered very alarming statistics. All my life I grew up with the idea that America was number one in everything. America is where you go to find the best care. Looking now, with the knowledge I found I can conclude that the U.S has not acted to better the health care system. There is opportunity for change though. What I found in my research is, a way the government can fix health care system. How can the government help people get access to the best of care without having to suffer financially? In this research, I found how it got up to this point. The way it got to this point is a series of a chain of events.

Big businesses started seeing the green in healthcare. Due to that, health care became a business and now only interested the big investors in hospitals. The reason it has stayed like this is, the government thinks that just throwing money at the problem will solve it. That is not true since all that money, goes to the private sector. The way we fix this is to have America be the hospital's number one customer.

Let everyone in Medicare so that government has more bargaining power to negotiate lower prices for us. The more influence government has, hospitals are more likely to accept governmental terms. There must be a watch though because lobbying could be an even bigger problem. We could end up with the same thing we have now. Having Government control, we can have less administrative paperwork, leading to the reduction of cost altogether.

What surprised me is how hasn't this Medicare for all bill passed. This could be beneficial to all Americans. Whose fault is it that we don't have this in action? Lastly, what I learned is important, because now I can see a clear solution.

Now we see what we need to do, and we need to enlighten lawmakers on what is better for all Americans. The first people who need to hear this are lawmakers. With them having the most influence in what goes down in our country, they can make a change. Signing things like the "Medicare for all bill" would be beneficial to all of us and have America move forward into the future.