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English 1121 Section D439

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3/1/2019

For your information, I will be referring to the word “freedom” as the “f-word” for the remainder of the essay, as I believe that it is a sensitive word in our society today (like another word tossed about referring to a specific race of people. When I think of the f-word, I like thinking about the human life cycle (not from a biology standpoint).

We are bon into this world but are at the mercy of our caretakers. We are very dependent on others for all how infant years, and then suddenly, we are brushing our own teeth, feeding ourselves, and getting an education with others just like us. Now that your brain is more developed, you feel as though the handicap is loosening up, and you try to do things, but then this tiny little thing called “RULES” come into play and you start to feel a little oppressed. I know when I was in Elementary School, I was super pissed off when GameStop said that I cannot buy Call of Duty because of age restrictions. I had to constantly ask adults for things, which after a while is annoying, especially when a lot of those answers are no.

As the adolescence stage kicks in, it feels as thought that handicap is finally off. Your brain is even more developed than what it was before. You are beginning to understand what society is, and your parents are kicking you out the house to get a job (but you love it because now you are making your own money and spend it in whatever without anyone saying a word (hopefully)). Everything feels fine, but trust me, that handicap is there. Even though your learning about society, doesn’t mean you can take up action so easily. You cannot vote, and while you may feel independence from your parents, legally, you are still dependent of them. All throughout my high school years I did many things from working to volunteering at almost everywhere in Brooklyn, but you know what I still had to do, report back to my parents. Yes, that means calling them at least 2 times a day, and if I missed one phone call, let’s just say the house wasn’t quite that night.

Congratulations, You’re a full-fledged adult now! You can buy anything you want (legally of course), and you can file as independent on your taxes and all federal forms. Right now, you’re saying to yourself, “Yes! Those handicaps are officially off now.” Spoiler alert, they are still there. You may not recognize it because it has taken another form. Depending on who you are in society, you are subjected to oppression in ways that raises some serious questions.

Even though you are experiencing the f-word in your personal life, your professional life probably isn’t experiencing that same f-word. Your most noticeable handicap is the government. You know what I am talking about, those pesky taxes that take a chunk from your pay and every now and then they have the audacity to raise those taxes. It pains me to see money that I don’t see leave my account, while everything around me gets expensive. Your pay doesn’t increase the price for that gallon of milk sitting in the back of your fridge does. And what do you get to show off from it? Debt that’s what. Because of this, you cannot the f-word isn’t looking to good right now is it?

When the government isn’t handicapping you, you could feel handicap socially. Some people are not able to speak their minds or act on their thoughts because of fear. I know in this country, minorities are oppressed by the wealthy, which causes them to lose opportunities that could help them excel in life. Just because of the background, they may be up for the task at hand, essentially stripping away their f-word in to what I think is the worst way to oppress someone.

For me, looking at this cycle, the f-word doesn’t come hand delivered to you. It is something you must find. It is something that every individual must find on their own accord sometime before they die. Our handicaps are there from the moment we are born. The only way to get rid of them is to find something to oppress them. That some thing is the f-word. I believe that the f-word is different for all human beings. For me, its being able to enjoy life and do the things that are on my mind without oppression. To do that I must find the f-word. I must earn the f-word.