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Ms. Pohomov

English 2

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The Conch Shell

Do humans always need a leader or some sort of rule set in place for them to stay civilized and calm? In *Lord of the Flies*, a novel written by William Golding, a plane crashes with a group of young boys aboard. They have to face these questions as they seek to survive without any adults around. In the novel a character finds a conch shell which symbolizes civilization and order. In the end the shell loses all of its power. Their behavior ultimately shows that without laws and repercussions, the people will not stay civilized .

The group of young boys were searching the island and exploring, Ralph finds a strange shell and Piggy immediately recognizes it. He says it's called a conch shell and he began to explain how a boy from a story he heard, blew the conch so his mom would come. Then, Piggy talked about an idea that popped into his head. Piggy thought it would be a great idea to use the conch to gather everyone up for a meeting. He thought that having a council would give each other respect by speaking only if the conch is in your hand. If everyone was to speak at once the meetings would not be productive , everyone would try to voice their opinions and ideas at once and nothing would get done. "We can use it to call the others have a meeting. They'll come when they hear us-"(16) The shell is a symbol of democracy and political legitimacy. Political legitimacy is the right and acceptance of authority such as kings or governing laws. Democracy

is like how the United States is today , the citizens get their way through elected representatives. The boys show civilization and use the conch as something valuable that will maybe keep everything calm. Ralph spots the shell, “S’Right. It’s a shell! I seen one like that before. On someone's back wall. A conch he called it. He used to blow it and then his mum would come. It’s ever so valuable-” (15)

What happens without repercussions? In the Lord of Flies, the boys started to become savages and the conch shell starts to lose its power. There was a feast being held by Jack, but Ralph and Piggy did not go, Piggy deep down thinks they should attend because he wants to make sure nothing bad happens. Jack is the chief, and he uses fear and force to control his tribe, he does not believe in the conch shell. Ralph was holding the the shell , when he was talking about killing Simon. He was later stoned and Piggy began giving excuses on how they did not really kill him. “You stop it!” said Piggy, shrilly. “What good’re you doing doing talking like that? “We was scared!” said Piggy excitedly “Anything might have happened. It wasn’t--what you said.”(156)

Are humans only scared of the consequences? If there were no consequences would people just be uncivilized and savages? Some people do not care about consequences, they believe that they have the right to do as they please, which is the case but under these certain laws. Some people do but have or find ways to get out of good or bad situations like drug use, gun violence's, joining a gang, and thievery. Without laws, the environment would be worst than it is today there would be higher criminal rates. People like to have their own utopias, and want our world to just be theirs but, that is not how things work so we have laws.

Thomas Hobbes, an English philosopher once came up with a theory. He believed that “if man is placed in a state of nature (that is, without any form of government) humans would be in a state of constant warfare with one another.” In conclusion, people would try to take advantage and become savage and uncivilized as they did in the Lord of Flies.

These examples:

<http://study.com/academy/lesson/thomas-hobbes-john-locke-political-theories-competing-views.html>

Peer Editing Rubric - for use in class on Thursday, 3/30

Category	What's working in this paper? What still needs work?
DESIGN - Essay has a unique, insightful, debatable thesis statement that analyzes human behavior in a complex way.	Needs to find a thesis. You have some content from the book, just figure out what exactly you want to prove.
KNOWLEDGE - Essay shows a thorough comprehension of all materials being referenced – both “Lord of the Flies” and the real world example. The reader is never confused.	Needs more real world examples and a clear example from the book.
APPLICATION - Essay successfully presents a thesis argument and expands on this idea with the support chosen. Analysis goes beyond just saying that the two examples are similar or different.	First paragraph was generally summarizing a section of the book. It didn't relate back to the thesis, because of the lack one of, but you have enough content here to be able to work with something.
PRESENTATION - Essay meets all of the criteria for style and conventions: Precise control of language, stylistic techniques, and sentence structures that creates a consistent and effective tone. Few errors, if any, are present in grammar, usage,	Some grammar mistakes and run-on sentences. Try not to cram in everything in one sentence and just make what you are trying to say a little easier to read. Otherwise, you're fine/

spelling and punctuation.	
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