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Position Paper

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## Work and the Human Condition

Each human being is a very unique individual. Unique characteristics, perspectives and personalities are what shape and form us into our own unique mold, incomparable to any other. Individual unique characteristics and perspectives control how we see and understand work. Work allows for monetary payment, which provides for a better standard of living. Work allows for self-worth through accomplishments of doing the job well. Work ensures the very survival of human beings; everybody must work together for all to survive. Work allows a community to function. Each community member has different skills and tasks. Work provides a sense of accomplishment. Some work requires mental strength, some requires physical strength, and some requires both. Work allows us to interact with other human beings, usually in a different manner than we would in a relationship. Work provides an outlet for creativity. How we were shaped can cause us to define work differently. Some work their way up the economic ladder; others work for survival.

Ardent considers that human beings are born as “blank slates.” We are conditioned from birth on how to survive in this world. Human nature is not the same thing as the human condition, but human nature does affect the human condition. And the human condition affects human nature. Often in the same manner as we affect the world, the world affects us.(Pollution/Ozone layer)

Human nature can be viewed at as a set of characteristics that all “normal” human beings possess, including the ways we think, feel and act. Human Condition can some what be understood by the distinctive human features of man's existence. As mortal entities, there are a series events biologically determined that are in common to most humans and some that are unavoidable for all. The ongoing way in which humans react and cope to these events is the human condition. We want predictability in our lives, which we get through such things as statistical regularities and scheduling. At the same time, we want unpredictability in ourselves. “We, however, *want to become those we are*-human beings who are new, unique, incomparable, who give themselves laws, who create themselves”(266)(MacIntyre,114)

The way we see and understand work has evolved over time. “Nothing causes more unfairness in man's view of history,” Acton once wrote, “Than the interest which is inspired by individual

characters.”(Carr,58-59) Depending on how we were shaped can cause us to define work differently, working for the economic ladder or working for survival. We go through life every day living up to other people's standards, trying to fit into a social class in our society and having to work towards our own and other people's goals and visions of what is good.

“Because success is whatever passes for success, it is in the regard of others that I prosper or fail to prosper.”(MacIntyre,115) Really now, what is success? We are told what success brings, but the goals for success change in the eyes of the beholder. Ultimately, you chose whether you fail or prosper.

Labor and work can be viewed with different meanings: Labor equals \$ and Work equals passion. Labor is done as a means to support oneself and/or family. There is no real joy or passion with no real chance to prosper. There is only a numb mind, sent out to do a job as a way to survive.

I see work as being something one does that they are passionate about and, sadly, not necessarily something that is always able to pay the bills. Work is sometimes a luxury for people. When you can do what you love to do and get paid a good amount for it, you are living well. There is a ladder that you are able to climb and this ladder has no end. A lot of times, when you approach someone and ask him or her what he or she does, they will tell you their work. If you approach an artist, who also works at a gas station as a way to survive, he will tell you he is an artist—not that he works at a gas station. Work allows individuals to express unique interests and talents.

Work allows us to act true to ourselves. It gives us a means of accomplishment, a reason to survive. Ambition, passion, persistence and motivation thrive. It can allow us to find a meaning for our life, or at least a false image for some, like Willy Lowman. Work can give us a sense of direction, sustainability, independence, and can build one's self esteem. Experience is important; skills that come with experience can be helpful to a society. Without work, people would not survive. Work is what keeps the community, society and the human race functioning.