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Position Paper  
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Work and the Human Condition  
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Over the past two quarters, my ideas about work have changed and I have learned a great deal about the history that has brought us to where we are and how we got to this point in the working world and how it is related to our way of life and our human condition.

My ideas about how work affects our human condition were derived from the information I obtained from reading Arendt, Paine and Rogers.

In Arendt, I came to an understanding of what the meaning of work, labor and action really means in our lives. I feel that work and labor are natural to our being, without one or the other we cannot live. Labor is part of us and everything we do, from eating to walking, from thinking to speaking. Labor is what our bodies do to move. Work is what we do for ourselves in the sense of survival, for our sustenance, our mental health, and our physical health. Even if we did not need to work for financial reasons, we would still work because it is our condition. We work in many ways, we go to a job, we work at home, we work for different reasons, but it all comes down to fulfilling our needs. The action in our condition is the social and political side of us. Our interactions with others is an important part of us, we need the stimulation of others.

From Paine I gained an understanding of how we got to where we are in the working world and how his ideas play a role in the system of work fairness and taking care of the people. I agree with the help for elderly in what is now the social security system, even though it is in some disarray, the concept is a good one, and benefits that allow for the care of those who cannot provide for themselves or have reached hard times and a temporary answer to a temporary situation is provided. Paine was one for the people and although I am not a fan of today's welfare, I am a believer of assistance for children and our elderly and for those who have worked for years and have given over and over again through taxes.

From Rogers, I take a lot of my thoughts about work and where we are today. During the industrial revolution, many workers were displaced, and specialty craftsmen were being phased out by machines and factory work. The negative of this was that true craft work was going away, the positive, it was putting many to work. Unfortunately the working conditions were less than ideal and there were no regulations on how many hours or days one was required to work in a week, or any laws that protected children in the workplace. These conditions brought about regulations on children working in the factories and the number of hours one could work. The unions were born from these conditions. Another positive was that women were in the work place, many women left their traditional housework to help their families make ends meet during a very hard time in our society. Women moved into jobs that would

traditionally be men's work. This opened doors for many future rights for woman. Today, women hold many positions that may have never been a possibility if women were not forced out into the workforce.

The industrial revolution opened many doors to what we have today and rights that give a fair working environment.

After many of the reads, I find that many people identify themselves with what they do for a living and they compare their status in life to what their job is.

Work is what we do, who we are, and how we fit into our society and communities. We are judged by our jobs and never seem to be fully satisfied in what we do, we always want more. But without it, we would not thrive; we need work to let us know that we have accomplished something, to let others know that we are worthy. Work truly is the human condition.