**Life In Poverty**

*Poverty In The United States*

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First Year Seminar 05, Speech 113, Professor Ingrid Griffith

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| **Do you have dreams of becoming rich? Of winning millions and millions of dollars! Or, of buying a big house and traveling the world?**  
**Nowadays, some people find it hard to dream. Recent statistics show that nearly 85 percent of Americans are living above the poverty line. But there are 15 percent of Americans, 46.2 million people like my Aunt and Uncle who are living under the poverty line. They cannot afford to buy food, pay their medical bills and afford tuition for their children to attend college.** | **A. Two major census measures show the gap between the rich and the poor in America increasing.**  
1. According to the Government accountability office, in 2011 the median, or midpoint, annual household income was $50,054.  
2. In 2010, annual household income was $51,625.  
**B. The wages growth data supports an increasing gap between the rich and poor in America.**  
1. According to the Government accountability office since 1999, median household income for the top 90 percent dropped by 1.5 percent but for the last 10 percent fell by 12 percent. | **According to Census Bureau, in 2011, the unemployment rate improved to 8.9 percent from 9.6 percent in 2010. Even though the unemployment rate improved, it still is at 8.9 percent. Poverty is still a serious issue in America. I would like to share a quote by President Obama “If poverty is a disease that infects an entire community in the form of unemployment and violence, failing schools and broken homes, then we can’t just treat those symptoms in isolation. We have to heal that entire community. And we have to focus on what actually works.”** |
| **Research Question** | **A. Unemployment creates poverty.**  
1. According to U.S. Census Releases Poverty Report have begun to demonstrate that higher rates of poverty are associated with lower rates of growth in the economy as a whole.  
**B. Poverty affects human working ability.**  
1. According to the Government accountability office, poverty can negatively affect economic growth by affecting the worker skills, abilities and knowledge used in employment.** | **References** |
| **Do you know there is an increasing gap between rich and the poor in America, the increase in poverty affects the country’s economy and there are government programs that are available to help the poor?** |  
**A. The food stamp program is one of the important examples of the government helping the poor.**  
1. Serving more than 46 million people.  
2. It reduced the poverty rate by nearly 8 percent in 2009.  
   a. It provided a combined amount of assistance worth an estimated $5,000 for working adults with children who earn approximately $12,000 a year.  
**B. Federal health programs help low-income families.**  
1. According to a CNN money article, Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program help hundreds of thousands of youngsters stay insured.  
| **Background** | **Background** | **Background** |
| **According to the United States government, the definition of poverty is a state of privation or lack of the usual or socially acceptable amount of money or material possessions.** |  
**The information I’m going to share comes mostly from peer testimony, my aunt and uncle’s experience, New York Times and Government Accountability Office.** |  

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*According to the United States government,* the definition of poverty is a state of privation or lack of the usual or socially acceptable amount of money or material possessions.