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Constitution Critical Thinking Essay

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America's Leader or America's Monster?



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In 2017, we have a President who was enraged and called for a complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States of America. President Donald J. Trump made the decision to have an executive order banning Muslims from entering the U.S because Trump witnessed Arab Americans shouting for joy as the World Trade Center towers fell in New York City on September 11, 2003. According to the 1st Amendment, United States citizens can exercise their rights of freedom of assembly, freedom of religion, freedom of press, and freedom of speech. United States citizens should come together to have demonstrations, to express their concerns to their congressman or congresswoman, and hold the United States Senate and House of Representatives accountable for passing laws that do not benefit the people.

The 1st Amendment states “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.” The first amendment was exercised in Montgomery, Alabama in

December 1955, a young African American woman by the name of Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white male. She was arrested because she decided not to move. This was the spark of the Civil Rights movement and started a long-term bus boycott. In Montgomery, over 75 percent of the black residents rode the bus. This brought a lot of attention to the Civil Rights movement because the bus companies took a big financial hit. Today, we should exercise our rights by getting a permit to demonstrate in large numbers and hold demonstrations that will draw attention and help make change like the Bus Boycott in Montgomery, Alabama in 1955. For example, the recent demonstrations that occurred in Durham, North Carolina where demonstrators tied a cord to a Confederate statue and toppled it to the ground. This event was a symbolic response to all of the violence that took place at a rally of white nationalists in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Citizens should become more knowledgeable of the backgrounds and values of the presidential candidates. Citizens should become familiar with their local officials and attend their townhall meetings to express their concerns about the President to their congressman or congresswoman. In return, the congressman or congresswoman can express the citizen's concerns to The House and the Senate. Many citizens do not know that you can file lawsuits in court which can block the President from passing laws. Citizens with their concerns can also contact their U.S. Representatives and U.S. Senators, who recently overruled 51 out of 100 Congressmen voted against President Trump to eliminate Obamacare.

Yes, citizens should hold the president accountable, but they should also hold those who are helping the President pass laws which are the United States House of Representatives and Senate. Our constitution is set up as checks and balances so the President cannot function as a king. For example, Trump wants to go to war right now, but the House and the Senate should make him present reasons why he wants to go to war then vote on whether it is for the greater good of the country and its citizens. The Democrats and Republicans need to come together and make reasonable decisions for the country instead of showing favoritism. Republicans are reluctant to do anything that is against Trump just because he is in their party. Both parties could negotiate and come together to stop Trump and his ridiculous bills he wants to pass.

We cannot leave out education and the economy. African-Americans must understand that education is the key to success. It is the key that will help unlock all doors. With a good education, a person can compete on the same playing field and have the respect and dignity as American citizen. Education gives a person a sense of pride. Having a good education also sends a message to political leaders that you want to be a part of the American Dream by being conscious of world issues and citizens are concerned in the world in which you live. In the economy, money talks. In a 1991 Gallup poll, "about one-fifth of all whites, but almost half of black respondents, said that at least three out of four African Americans were impoverished urban residents. And yet, in reality, blacks who consider themselves to be middle class outnumber those with incomes below the poverty line by a wide margin. Collective African

American net income (spending power) now exceeds \$1 trillion dollars annually. Because of this economic reality, a wide variety of contemporary companies continually create marketing campaigns to effectively reach this important segment of the U.S. consumer market. Yet, in the not-too-distant past, black consumers were all but ignored in the American marketplace.” African Americans must understand if they want to send a strong message to this administration on any give topic stop spending money and political leaders will STOP listen and pay very close attention to your concerns.

In conclusion, United States Citizens should come together to have demonstrations, to express their concerns to their congressman or congresswoman, and to hold the United States Senate and House of Representatives accountable for passing laws that do not benefit the people. I believe when people peacefully protest in great numbers, it sends a strong message to political leaders. Citizens can hold the Trump Administration responsible by registering to vote. If voters don't like the policies of a politician, they have the right to vote them out of office the very next term. Voting is one of the most powerful messages you can send to an elected leader, in fact it is the key component in having your voice heard. In my opinion, I think Americans must stay engaged with the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Senate. Both branches of government have been reluctant to acting on issues at hand because they are in the same Republican party as the President. The U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate should start passing laws to prevent the President Trump and his administration from making changes with policies that benefit the American people. Both parties need to work together to veto actions from the President. If citizens want to hold the Trump administration responsible they need to get out, and vote in record numbers the candidate they want in office. Voting is a key factor in holding an elected official accountable including this Administration.

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