Fall 2017 Helena District Writing Assessment, 9-12

“Motivation” Prompt

Sample Score Point 4

You always here people saying things like “If you love your job, it doesn’t feel like work,” or “do what you love.” What these saying are really talking about is intrinsic motivation. Many of the greatest people in the history of our society were intrinsicly motivated. Intrinsic motivation is an insanely powerful force, and while it doesn’t garante success, it is a absolute necessity for those who wish to be remembered for centuries to come.

While it may sound blunt, the fact is that not everyone will achive great things. As the saying goes, the world will always need more trash collectors. Not everyone has drive to constantly strive for more, and among those that do, not everyone will succeed. This makes extrinsic motivators a critical part of today’s society. Without these many people would stop functioning and the world would grind to a halt. These motivators, having the need for money are so engrained into most cultures that it is impossible to avoid them. Even those who are intrinsicly motivated may find themselves at the whim of external factors if their passion doesn’t generate income. Extrinsic motivation is the glue that holds our society together.

While extrinsic motivation holds our society together, intrinsic motivation is what allows it to shine. People who have the burning need to help others, to gain power, or to create beauty. Intrinsic motivation allows ordinary people to become extraordinary. The long term goals that drive people on to achive their dreams is what drives the world forward. Progress and innovation that have thrust humanity from the stone age into this current age of technological marvels were caused by the self-motivated. This form of motivation is a critical part of life as we know it.

The issue of motivation exists in a delicate balance. Without intrinsic motivation the world would slowly desend into a dull monotiny, while without extrinsic motivation the world would be a constant mad power grab in all aspects of life. External motivation keeps the world together and internal motivation pushes it forward. This combination is what has allowed humanity to truly become the brilliant civilization it is today.

Annotation: This essay takes a stand and engages in multiple perspectives on the issue. The analysis recognizes the complexities of the issue; clear reasoning conveys the significance of the argument. Organization is clear and logical. While spelling clearly is not a strength of this writer, sentence structures are varied and stylistic choices appropriate.