

Good intro. Setting up thesis and purpose of response.

“What difference does it make how much you have? What you do not have amounts to much more (Seneca 4 B.C.E – 65 CE). While tangible wealth, such as money, may make life more enjoyable, it cannot buy happiness. Additionally, life provides characteristics that cannot be bought, sold, or traded because they are not material items. Good morals, good health, and a strong support system of family and friends can increase success and increase happiness, but it cannot be acquired through an exchange of money. It is instead acquired through ones environment, birth, and experiences. Throughout history, the perception of power and privilege has changed. This has been examined through the central idea of wealth versus poverty, as wealth seems to influence power and privilege.

Good point but why? Connection to obligation of the wealthy and people who are in need could be stronger.

Poverty is often visualized by suffering due to a lack of food, transportation, water or other material goods. If people are indeed suffering, a community of people with good morals will feel obligated to help those who are suffering. According to Andrew Carnegie in “The Gospel of Wealth”, it is the duty of the wealthy to help the poor (Carnegie 486). If each person who was rich gave a small portion of their earnings to the poor, then the poor could have the opportunity to advance and create wealth for themselves. Good deeds result in more good deeds by others. This contagious effect will ultimately create a world where no one is impoverished. In addition, charity and doing community service have resulted in good morals for those who choose to participate. “There are instances of millionaires’ sons unspoiled by wealth... still perform great services in the community (Carnegie 490). They acknowledge their own success and wealth by giving back to a community of need. They have good morals. Good morals are important, but they cannot be bought. They are established through positive choices. Choices of this sort leave a positive impact; there, improving the lives of those who are suffering. It is, however, possible for one to be wealthy and have good morals.

Good use of source/quote

FF

Nice paragraph with strong points that refer back to the thesis.  
Every sentence has support to writer's position.

Health is blind to wealth, power, privilege, or lack thereof. Poor health can be developed through poor habits, such as constantly eating fast food, but it is likely assigned through birth or random choice of fate. It cannot be chosen through personal will or bought with money.

Nice  
current  
tie-in.

Recently, in the United States, President Obama issued the Affordable Care Act which provides healthcare access for both the rich and the poor. Previously, a person who was wealthy could buy better treatments or more experienced doctors. Now more people can receive similar treatment options. In the Communist Manifesto, Karl Marx creates a society in which each person has equal opportunities. Each person would have equal access to resources; thus, equal access to healthcare. Similar to morality, good health may provide for increased success, but it cannot be exchanged for money. Those who are wealthy may be able to afford better healthcare options therefore allowing them to live longer and allowing them to continue to increase their wealth. However, their poor health may ultimately result in the same fate as someone who is poor. They do not get to choose this, it is handed to them through birth and genetics.

Good  
reasoning  
and  
support  
of ideas.

If someone is wealthy, but they have no family and friends to experience life with, then how has being wealthy helped them to have a meaningful life? Being ~~apart~~ part of a community and building relationships can lead to increased health. It allows one to learn and grow, and find support when mistakes are made along the way. Community shapes one's being, and guides people through hardships. A surplus in wealth "can be left to the families of the descendants" (Carnegie 489). If someone who is wealthy has not established relationships with family, then who should they leave their money? Family can be through a blood relationship or that of choice. It is a choice to create a lasting support system who will celebrate one's successes. Relationships are created through shared experiences. Wealth can create wonderful experiences, but it is one's choice to do so. It is one's choice to take their family or friends on a vacation instead of working

for a majority of the week, month, or year. While those who are rich may not have extravagant shared experiences, they do value each others company in other ways. Each meaningful experience is relevant to the people experiencing it. Good morals leads to being a nice person who is overall a good person thus creating lasting friendships and relationships. Genuine relationships can not be bought.

Although this is good, tending toward repetition.

Throughout history power and privilege seemed to be created by wealth. In 1848, Karl

Marx, labeled the various classes in his book "The Communist Manifesto." He labeled those who served as the laborers, the proletariat, and those who owned the means of production as the bourgeois (Marx 457). These two categories left no room for those who did not fit into one. Each person was in one group or the other and they were unable to change class. The proletariat made enough money to survive, but not enough to advance, while the bourgeois continued to thrive and constantly increase their wealth and status (Marx 458). They created a system of hierarchy through wealth accordingly creating power and privilege for those who were wealthy. In the

United States today, power and privilege does exist for similar reasons, however there is more mobility between the different socioeconomic statuses. For example, if a person is born into a working poor family, they can become middle class by pursuing higher education. College has become affordable and accessible for all who wish to attend. The correct choices and opportunities can easily change a person's circumstances. This, however, is not the same with the proletariat and the bourgeois. They, instead, are opposites.

People throughout history are often born into a socioeconomic status. A person with two proletariat parents are likely to become a laborer themselves because during this time, there was no mobility. Insular poverty is the idea that everyone in a specific location is poor (Galbraith 503). This is seen in developing countries today. People born in developing countries are likely

Good current example and connection back to thesis

A little heavy on summary

Good support for ideas

to stay there and continue to be poor because they lack the resources to change their circumstances. “In former days there was little differences between the dwelling, dress, food, and environment of the chief and those of his retainers” (Carnegie 486). Now, however, there is more flexibility and the need for hierarchy has increased. If society is not communist, then they allow for a sense of hierarchy creating power and privilege. Hierarchy, however, may not be negative for a society. Today, people have role models and people strive to continue to be better because they are in awe of the people in higher positions.

Outstanding  
transition  
into  
concluding  
paragraph

Class differences create opposition and superiority, but that opposing force may be used as motivation for those in the oppressed position. Regardless of money and social constructs of power, privilege, and class, there are characteristics of a person that cannot be bought. The characteristics of morality, health, and relationships are acquired through other means; but they are necessary for success. While social constructs may exist, it does intersect with concepts that are not influenced by money. Today, there is an opportunity for everyone to be rich in both the tangible and non-tangible sense providing for a well-rounded member of society. Ultimately, happiness can be achieved without wealth.

Strong use of syntax and diction.

Language control and higher order thinking is clearly evident.

## Works Cited

- Carnegie, Andrew. "The Gospel of Wealth." *A World of Ideas: Essential Readings for College Writers*. Ed. Lee A. Jacobus. Boston/New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2013. 481-497. Print.
- Galbraith, John Kenneth. "The Position of Poverty." *A World of Ideas: Essential Readings for College Writers*. Ed. Lee A. Jacobus. Boston/New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2013. 499-511. Print.
- Marx, Karl. "The Communist Manifesto." *A World of Ideas: Essential Readings for College Writers*. Ed. Lee A. Jacobus. Boston/New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2013. 453-479. Print.