

Expository Essay Examples University

Example 1: Human Rights

Human rights are usually said to be inalienable and innate. However, universal human rights are more of a modern invention. In the ancient past, these principles were more geared towards certain sections of society. Anyways, in the following paragraphs, there will be an exploration of the first records of human rights and what they entailed.

There are differing opinions of the first legal code and example of human rights. However, one can say that the oldest legal code known to humanity is The reforms of Urukagina of Lagash, created around 2350 BC in the area of Iraq. Though the record of it does not exist now, it is known that the reforms included punishments, especially for women. In addition, the document had laws against corruption. The volume is also referenced to, but has not been found (Yoffee, Norman). From the very beginning, human rights were not equal for each gender.

The oldest record of human rights that is in its original form is the Neo-Sumerian Code of Ur-Nammu, written around 2050 BC. It tells of punishments for offenses, which is either money needed to be paid, or something as severe as death. The document also described different statuses in society by law, and what each position entailed. Most of the laws are directed towards men, but women were allowed to remarry. However, if a woman committed adultery, she would be sentenced to death (Kramer, Samuel Noah).

The next pivotal find of ancient human rights can be said to be the Code of Hammurabi written around 1780 BC. Composed by the sixth Babylonian King, Hammurabi, it has 282 laws in total. It is reflective of previous legal codes in the area, and can be said to be a collection of rules gathered over time. In fact, it is quite modern in light of it including such provisions as the presumption of innocence, a minimum wage, the regulating of governments, and the striving of equal rights among all stratas of society. However, punishments varied widely depending on the interaction between classes. For example, if a rich man attacked a slave, the punishment would be less if a slave had attacked a rich man. Yet, the Code of Hammurabi was the perhaps the most nuanced code of its time (“8 Things You May Not Know About Hammurabi’s Code”).

The first declaration of human rights is believed by some scholars to be found in the Cyrus Cylinder composed of baked clay. Made in 6th century BC, it extols Persian King Cyrus as chosen by the god Marduk, and a restorer of peace. However, in some translations of the Cylinder, a declaration of human rights and independence is described (Robertson, A. H., and J. G. Merrills).

Ancient Greece envisioned the first rights of citizenship called the polis. With citizenship, all people under its rule of law could speak and vote in a political assembly in a city-state. Each city-state was called a polis, and gave its citizens certain rights. Citizens generally had to be born within a certain polis and be free. Being assured rights under the rule of polis was a novel concept, as before only authoritarian rule determined if you were afforded human rights. The ancient

Greeks believed themselves to be too progressive to promote this kind of rule, and vied for a holistic giving of citizenship (Study.com).

Though universal human rights for both genders is more of a contemporary idea, varying degrees of human rights have been given since ancient times. Starting from The reforms of Urukagina of Lagash in Iraq in 2350 BC, documents were created to describe the punishment for crimes, the rules of business contracts, and the principles of family life. It was not until ancient Greece, though, that people born and free in a certain area were automatically claimed to be citizens and that their rights would be protected by a non-authoritarian government.

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Example 2: Waste Management: Facts and Future

The world has a waste problem. This is known by virtually everyone on the planet, but hardly anyone cares to look at the exact figures and to face the reality of what is coming in terms of the condition of our home: Earth. In order to highlight how much waste us humans produce, the following paragraphs will be written in detail.

First, let us start with the yearly count. According to The World Counts, “Every year we dump a massive 2.12 billion tons of waste. If all this waste was put on trucks they would go around the world 24 times” (“Tons of Waste Dumped – Globally, This Year”). Not only is this amount unprecedented and is only getting worse every year due to population growth, the majority of countries are not dealing with waste properly. For instance, the United States is known for producing the largest amount of garbage in the world. “The U.S. consumes 30 percent of the world’s resources despite making up only 5 percent of the world’s population. It also produces 30 percent of the world’s waste. In only a year, Americans throw away around 26,800,000 tons of food, 8,550,000 tons of furniture and furnishings, 6,330,000 tons of clothing and footwear, and tons of other waste” (“Top 10 Countries that Produce the Most Waste”). Therefore, it can be said that the United States is the main problem-country to regulate in terms of waste production.

Another disturbing note is that 99 percent of the materials we purchase are thrown away within six months (“Tons of Waste Dumped – Globally, This Year”). This is caused by the capitalist idea of wanting to always have something new and fashionable, instead of something old. Also, producers of materials sometimes make sure that products do not last long. This phenomenon is called planned obsolescence (The Economist).

With this much being thrown away and at such a rapid rate, the future looks dim. The World Bank reports that, “Without urgent action, global waste will increase by 70 percent on current levels by 2050, according to the World Bank’s new What a Waste 2.0: A Global Snapshot of Solid Waste Management to 2050 report” (World Bank). This is important to take in, as all this waste harms human health, natural environments, and speeds up climate change. The poorest nations, unfortunately will be hit the hardest by the increasing amount of garbage due to their lack of proper waste management systems, population growth, and uninformed populace about how to handle waste.

Looking farther into the future, when will be the peak of our waste? In other words, when will waste production be so high, that its effects will be irreversible? Around the year 2100, the peak of our waste production is estimated to come. By this time, the world will be covered in trash, with no more space for landfills, and the burning of waste either being too harmful for the environment or not enough to combat the exponential growth of garbage (Stromberg, Joseph).

All that trash will not only be unsightly, but also harmful to humans, animals, and plants. Plastics and other materials are ingested by animals, and the chemicals these materials contain can easily get inside our bodies, and affect our hormones and overall health. In addition, the spread of garbage hinders plant growth (“How Our Trash Affects the Whole Planet”).

Waste management is more pertinent than ever. By 2050, the exponential production of trash will result in a 70% increase of waste. Furthermore, by 2100, the world will be so covered in trash, that it will be a common sight wherever we go. Governments and organizations have to curtail this increase, or else Earth will be swallowed by human garbage, and disease, death, and a lack of living space will come as if a nightmare.

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