

## Average Kiss

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My essay is an introduction to the concept of poverty, it's prevalence in my beautiful state of Idaho, and the various government efforts that have attempted to diminish it, or so they claim. Most of the poverty and misery in the world today is due to bad government, repressive, or corrupt, or simply incompetent regimes and failed states.

Idaho, which started its destitute poverty in the 1990's with the regions highest poverty rate and the lowest median income, has been trying to find ways to stay out of poverty. After time the median income grew, the unemployment rate remained about the same, and the poverty rate fell. Yet Idaho still has the highest poverty rate and lowest median income of the northwest states, disadvantages that maybe softened by Idaho's lower cost of living.

Nearly three of every ten Idaho young adults live in poverty. For almost half of them, the prospects for escaping poverty are far from promising. They don't have a job, aren't going to school, and don't have a degree past high school. Some numbers paint a grim future for the 149,036 Idahoans between 18 and 24 years old. About 14 percent of our young adults live in poverty.

Legislators need to put money into education, so young people can prepare for good jobs. Lawmakers also need to help bring in employers that offer those good jobs. Both take money, which will be scarce in future coming years. Legislators need to make sure public school districts give kids an education that ensures a future beyond high school. They need to help the state's rural economic development initiative, which provides grants and staff to help recruit neighbors.

My little town of Pocatello, Idaho is very religious, and people here seem to have a belief of God in their lives. Most of these religious people are very successful and are happy with their lives. They live their lives by rules that are set in all good ways which is the prospect that makes

them so successful. This idea of the encompassing strong belief system gives hope and enables people to stay out of poverty.

Service work is very important in our community. Service work not only helps and changes the lives of others, but changes the life of the person who performs the service. The people who do service work are usually very outgoing, happy people. This is my other idea of staying out of poverty.

My community needs to give assistance to people who are in poverty; a program with a whole new outlook on life. The program would consist of counselors who would get to know you, study your life and the way you live. These counselors could walk you through the steps of getting your GED, showing you the opportunities of college, and the way to get a job.

A program can start early in people's lives when they are children. I think kids should not only learn more academically when they are younger, but also learn how life really is. Showing a child that life is more than just games can give the children more responsibilities and more willingness in conducting their lives.

In conclusion, most of Idaho's poverty is caused by the inability of the government to meet individual needs. Idaho's disadvantage is that it has the region's highest poverty rate and the lowest median income. Now, after exploring different situations of why poverty exists, it is now known why nearly three of every ten Idaho young adults live in poverty. The legislator needs to put more money into education to better the lives of our residence. We need to take an active stance by involving ourselves in our community!