

English 101

101-101

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Poverty Level in Idaho

Poverty level is defined as: A minimum income level below which a person is officially considered to lack adequate subsistence and to be living in poverty. The poverty level in the United States is continually increasing, and Idaho is no different. Idaho has one of the highest poverty levels in the nation from the ages of 18 through 24. Idaho is ranked 16th out of the 50 states and D.C. I believe the reason that people live below the poverty level is because they lack purpose and the ambition, and they make mistakes too early in life that have long-term effects.

Many young adults in Idaho between the ages of 18 and 24 do not pursue their dreams. They believe that life will always be a game and do not take the responsibility of going to college and making something of themselves. Young adults tend to get into the habit of living in the present instead of focusing on their dreams for their future.

For those who are scared to go to college for any reason including the money issue, they should talk to a career counselor, find scholarships, and/or apply for federal aide and grants. There are a number of solutions to getting help for some type of college or continuing education. They get too involved about how much college can cost instead of focusing on the outcome. Instead of worrying about where the money comes from now, they should focus on the steps they need to take to achieve their dreams and aspirations.

Another reason for the high poverty level is teen pregnancy. Rather than practicing abstinence, some young people jump into a relationship too soon and are obligated to care for a child. Many young adults have children before they are financially secure. They do not realize the financial and emotional responsibilities involved with raising a child and being a parent. They are forced to rely on the government as an alternative to creating their own financial security.

Early marriage can also contribute to a higher poverty level. Too many young adults are getting married before they are financially secure. Many young adults are not mature enough for the responsibilities of marriage financially and emotionally. This may cause the couple to lose focus on how to financially support their marriage. Although marriage can be very rewarding, one should prepare financially before committing to matrimony.

Laziness is a major cause of an increasing poverty level. Today's younger generations lack a sense of responsibility and expect their lives to be easy. Young adults do not comprehend how hard it can be to live in the real world. Instead of working hard to accommodate their needs, young people only work the minimum to get what is needed to survive. This leaves little money for their wants, such as cars, a nice house, vacations, and other rewards that come by working hard and saving money to finance these wants. Many people believe they can pay all expenses by earning a minimum wage salary. In today's society it is essential to have a productive career.

As a senior approaching the real world on my own, I plan to stay out of poverty. I am planning to attend Boise Court Reporting Institute in the fall of 2005. I am determined to finish with a certificate in Court Reporting, and immediately start my career. I am

currently working part-time after school, and have since I was 15 years old. I'm also planning on working full-time during the summer and saving as much as possible to put towards college. I feel I am a hard worker and will always keep myself above the poverty level. I do not plan on getting married or having children until I am finished with college and financially secure.

I believe that my community could help those who are under the poverty level in many ways. Many young people in my school would be willing to volunteer. We could hold a soup kitchen every Saturday with each person bringing some type of food to share.

Another way to help young adults in poverty is by teaching them how to get out of the poverty cycle. Teachers would love to help those less fortunate to get a better career. It would be a program where teachers and local leaders give motivational talks and ideas to inspire young adults to attend college and seek a better career and life. They could help motivate young adults in our area to succeed in life and decrease our poverty level.

Young adults in Idaho, as well as the rest of the nation, need to open their minds. I believe having a happy and financially secure life starts with having ambition, believing in yourself and making good decisions instead of making those mistakes with long-term effects that so many young people do.