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Honors English

Mr. Scott

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Poverty in Idaho

There are many states in this great country that are suffering because of poverty. Idaho is no exception. Idaho is ranked 16th on a national level for poverty. Between the ages of 18 through 24, Idaho has the highest rate of poverty. This poverty is caused by many factors, including laziness, lack of foresight, and high credit card rates. Many young adults are also declaring bankruptcy at an early age. Starting a family too young and early pregnancy are also factors for poverty. All these reasons are why Idaho has the highest poverty rate for young adults.

Many young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 are struggling with poverty. Young people these days don't know the value of hard work that our parents had to learn. Young people are used to having everything come fast and easy. Computers have helped to change the world, but young people expect life to be as fast and easy as it is to get on a computer. The Internet brings things from all over the world to our fingertips in the blink of an eye. Young adults expect the same quick results from every aspect of life. They do not realize the value of hard work and patience. They get discouraged when things don't work out right immediately. They would rather find a "get rich quick" scheme on the Internet that doesn't require hard work and time.

Young adults do not have enough foresight. They do not plan enough for the future. They live for the here and now and don't care what happens next. They look at

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all the cool things that their parents have, such as nice cars, a big house, a nice yacht, etc., and want the same things. They use any means to get these things. Young adults apply for credit cards to purchase the luxuries their parents have. They don't realize that the credit cards will have to be paid back at an 18 to 21 percent interest. They don't put enough money away in savings to be able to pay off their credit card debts. This lack of saving and foresight, I believe, is a major reason for the increased poverty rate in Idaho.

Young adults are too excited about getting into a relationship. They do not realize the financial responsibility that comes with being married. Many young adults are trying to pay for college and a spouse at the same time. Young adults are also jumping into parenthood too fast. They have children without any kind of a plan to pay for the child. These reasons cause undo stress on the lives of these young families. If young people would wait until they are better prepared and more responsible to get married and have children, poverty wouldn't be as big a problem in Idaho.

I am 18 years old and about ready to graduate high school. There are many things that can trap me and pull me below the poverty level. I plan on working full time for a few years and then go to college in the accounting field. This will help me to establish a secure career and continual income for my family.

There are many programs that my community can implement to help young adults get out of poverty. My community could start having more food drives and soup kitchens. This would help the poverty stricken people by saving them money for not having to pay for a few meals. I feel my community could also host free college days. Bring colleges into the town hall and have financial aid consultants and scholarship finders to help those people who can't afford to go to college on their own. With these

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few programs, and others, I believe that Idaho can turn the statistics around and have less poverty between the ages of 18 and 24.