

Ms. Boyd 5th Period

Honors English II

11 August 2013

Explanatory Essay

Humans are the most sophisticated beings on Earth. Although people possess traits of brilliance, they also gravely carry a burden of flaws. They hope to improve upon these flaws to conquer obstacles set before them in life. According to Alexander Pope in *An Essay on Man*,

humans are complex and "alike in ignorance" in every part of the world around them. They second-guess, over think, and are stuck on a plateau of imperfection.

Humans are lost in imperfection. Their "too much knowledge" is what has allowed them

to survive and adapt into the apex predator of the world; their "too much weakness" is what has

kept them "on this isthmus of a middle state" (Pope). They have made adjustments in society throughout time to fulfill the needs of humans. Today seeing humans lined up with "bashed in

skulls" would be abhorred genocide, whereas over periods of time in history, that sadly was a common sight (Pinker). People have adopted the idea of being humane. They have shown the

ability to improve as opposed to dehumanizing, with hopes in mind to one day reach the

mountaintop of perfection. In order for humanity to make the jump to perfection, everyone has

to make a difference. Man is only as perfect as its least-perfect person. We are all subject to

judgement from "the highest spiritual power" and in the end, perfection in His eyes is all we can

hope for (Higden). These texts support the ideas of Alexander Pope in *An Essay on Man*. All

effective use of story simple sentence to big essay

stroke? some more active verb?

This statement needs to cover the entire poem

Pope suggests that

dehumanizing process!

I think you're trying to synthesize, but it would help to introduce the author

Correct ideas here better

Is it a jump or a gradual process?

Humanity

I like the repetition

people sin. All people make mistakes. All people are imperfect. Perfection is not to be judged on Earth but only found in Heaven. People can never be perfect no matter how hard they try.

Re mention Pope here

In attempts to reach perfection, it has become clear that humans are far from it. People

are naturally imperfect. They know it's wrong, but they lie, they steal, and they cheat. It is

human nature. Humans feel anger and the need to "take revenge" that is not found in other

creatures (Twain). There is anger and greed and hatred found in humans that just is not in the

hearts of other animals. These characteristics are not the faults of any single individual, it is

simply the reality of living as a human being in modern society. The anger found in humans is

"universal and eternal" - it cannot, under any circumstances, be changed because it is "embedded in our very nature" (Wilson). People act ~~like~~ *as if* they are kind, but in reality that kindness is a cover

for the ever intensifying anger held down within the hearts of humans. Anger that is profusely

boiling to the surface where it will eventually overflow with a fulmination of wrath.

Trans. this to the next idea

It is obvious that humankind will never reach a full state of perfection. Is it possible

however for them to convince their "sole judge of truth", themselves, that they actually *are*

perfect (Pope)? Or make the foolish people of the world actually think *they* are perfect?

Humans tend to hide their flaws from the world. They wear makeup to hide a zit, because "in [a]

way it lies" (Shakespeare). It tells the world to look at your flawless beauty, when in reality it is

a manifestation of artificial beauty. It may give the temporary satisfaction of perfection, but it is

only a temporary perception. The idea of perfection on Earth is limited to "man's imagination"

because it has not been seen since Jesus walked among us (Tillyard). The world seeks top caliber

people to compare perfection to, but it is impossible to do so. This shows Pope's man idea in *An*

Synthes. of ideas

*dividing
depth*

offensive

Essay on Man. People may be the most advanced species on Earth, but they are not perfect. All humans aim for the pinnacle, but as humans they will not be able to reach it during their lifetime.

Based upon the accounts of humans, they are the most dominate species in the world the apex predator. Other animals are innate. They simply can't compete with humans in brain power or in resourcefulness. Humans see any other creature on Earth as "inferior to [them]" (Fortescue). They solve problems better than ~~anything else~~ ^{other beings} and they control the environment like no other animal can. Other animals are limited to the mercy of humans. Humans are not a perfect species, but they are as close as it gets on the Earth. And it is up to them to lead each other and all of the other species around them down the best path possible. Humans are looking to improve as a part of striving for conceptual perfection. How is it possible to when war and anger is embedded upon us? The people of the world must "overcome [their] self-destructive behavior" (Horgan). When people can learn to live without the constant need to fight, the constant need for revenge, and learn to forgive and move on, then the human race will reach the mountaintop. These texts challenge Pope's claim in *An Essay on Man*. The texts claim that there is a chance for humans to reach for perfection. How close people get to reaching perfection is solely up to humans. If they can learn to live in peace with themselves and the world around them, then they can reach the mountaintop they are working towards.

Man's urge for perfection is high. The standards people hold true to themselves are unmatchedably high and can not be achieved in a single lifetime. God willing, they will live their life to the level of enlightenment that it takes to satisfy only themselves. No one man will ever be perfect, but every man is blessed with the chance to give their best shot. The chance to put

Synthesis of ideas

Try to address the authors

Discuss the themes of the text and the author's position on the text. Just the sources.

Try to address the authors

their heart and soul in this life so one day they can jump from the plateau of imperfection and land on the mountaintop of impeccability.