

March 14, 2012

## Argumentative Timed Write

America is greatly known as the "melting pot" of the world. As Paine states, this country contains several different people from various countries, bringing with them their culture, language, and religion. The vast amount of ethnicities of people even up to this very day rightfully entitles the United States as a melting pot. However, there is an extent to how much of America still holds true today.

One shameful act in American history is the infamous slave trade. As several African Americans were taken from their home and forced onto a ship set sail to a country halfway around the world from their own, thousands of these people ended up being sold as slaves to serve someone of a lighter skin tone compared to them.

Paine mentions about the "right of man," yet, where were these people's rights?

This race committed no crime, yet they were treated brutally and were overworked to the brink of death. Compared to the white men, they had no rights. America made it so that they would have none and those who thought otherwise were quickly brought down. African Americans, like Rosa Parks who refused to give up her seat for a white passenger & Martin Luther King Jr. who made speeches about his dream of racial equality, were taken down for their actions of trying to make a difference. Rosa Parks ended up getting arrested & Martin Luther was assassinated.

No matter their skin color or race, these people were still American citizens, and also well-known for voicing out their opposition in feeling. A historical event that proves this to be true is the Boston Tea Party. Paine states that the taxes in America are few, yet history says otherwise. With all the taxes being placed on several goods, Americans were in an uproar. There were riots to express the frustrations Americans had on the government for placing more taxes on the people. To vent out their anger, a group known as the Sons of Liberty dressed up as Indians and dumped tea into the Boston Harbor. It goes to show that increases in taxes will always cause a riot among Americans.

Although America isn't as ideal as Paine has stated, it's still a working progress, for great historical events can not be changed in a short amount of time. African Americans have earned equal rights as any American in the United States. Although there is still racism towards them today, it is not as great as in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. As for taxes, they have always been around, but the riots for increased taxes aren't nearly as intense as the Boston Tea Party. America isn't as perfect as Paine describes, however it's not all horrible either. There is an extent to the characterization of America in Paine's view, for it is not all true, and yet not entirely false.