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2nd Period 12/17/13

Gay Marriage Rights

I work with a co worker who has become a very good friend to me. He is gay. He's one of the nicest, kind hearted, sensitive people i've met. He's nineteen years old. Throughout high school he was bullied heavily, for being gay . Before I met him I never really thought about gay marriage or really anything on that topic. In fact homosexuality was abnormal to me. Meeting my good friend who is gay has really opened my eyes to the problems gay people face.

Gay marriage has been an issue for as long as we really can remember. In 1996 only 27% of Americans believed gay marriage should be legal. Now (2013) 53% of Americans believe it should be legal. In only sixteen of the fifty states in America is it legal to marry the same sex gender. The question is: should gay marriage be legal or not?

There are so many different arguments and viewpoints when it comes to this topic. When people are asked what their opinion is on gay marriage they usually have a strong opinion. America is known for its freedom and equality, shouldn't gays feel that they have the same equal marriage rights as straight people? When we think about seeing A man being affectionate with another man we can feel uncomfortable right? I understand this feeling and why it makes us uncomfortable. Gay marriage is simply unusual because we haven't grown up with it being normal.

There is a bigger picture that we need to see. Whether a person is gay or straight we are all humans and we all want love. Feelings are feelings and we all have them. I will argue same sex marriage should be legal in all fifty states.

Gay couples should have the same equal marriage rights we have. As much as gay marriage may make some of us uncomfortable gay people deserve to be happy and find love like straight people. America, is known for its freedom and equal rights. Many people are beginning to compare gay rights to how black peoples rights were during the 1800's. According to Amy Jones, "Gay is the new black". Amy Jones is the author of "From 'Black people are not a homosexual act' to 'gay is the new Black': mapping white uses of Blackness in modern gay rights campaigns in the United States". In Jones' article she goes into more detail of how gay rights are similar to how black rights were. Daily News columnist, John McWhorter, recently wrote an article claiming ' Gay is the new Black'. "As a consequence of its painful heritage, black America has a special responsibility: to be further ahead of the curve than whites on accepting gay people as full citizens," McWhorter is directing this to the black community, In a way of asking the blacks to reach out and help gays fight for their equality.

We all know every single person in the world is alike in at least one way; One of those ways being that we want love. Think about not being able to marry the person you love because people don't think it is right. Love is a very powerful thing and it is cherished. Sure you can forever be a couple but you can not marry. To some that may not be a big deal but to others it is. According to, The President of the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, "Many benefits are only available to married couples, such as hospital

visitation during an illness, taxation and inheritance rights, access to family health coverage, and protection in the event of the relationship ending.” There are 3.1 million same sex couples in the world living together. A lot of these couples are facing the struggle of not having the same equal marriage rights.

Past the point that everyone deserves equal rights there is most definitely more benefits with gay marriage. One of the greatest being, same-sex couples being able to adopt. According to Ezra Klein, “In the US, 100,000 children are waiting to be adopted, children who are not adopted are left in foster care homes.” This is so huge, to think of all of the children who could actually have a home. James G. Pawelski also argues that, “A longitudinal study published in *Pediatrics* on June 7, 2010 found that children of lesbian mothers were rated higher than children of heterosexual parents in social and academic competence and had fewer social problems.” A study from Nanette Gartrell, MD, and Henry Bos, PhD 2010, found that children of gay fathers were “as well-adjusted as those adopted by heterosexual parents.” The children that are raised by homosexual parents are still getting the love they need. All children deserved to be loved and cared for. Take a moment to realize what it would be like to not have parents or really anyone; It hurts. Ezra Klein states, “We should be begging gay couples to adopt children. We should see this as a great boon that gay marriage could bring to kids who need nothing more than two loving parents.”

Another question that is often wondered is: What will happen to society? Those who have a heterosexual marriage worry marriage would lose its meaning and people would be confused because the traditional marriage would have a twist on itself. A study in *Social*

Science Quarterly found that "[l]aws permitting same-sex marriage or civil unions have no adverse effect on marriage, divorce, and abortion rates, [or] the percent of children born out of wedlock..." In fact divorce rates have been lowered in the states that do allow gay marriage. According to Nate Silver, "Massachusetts, which became the first state to legalize gay marriage in 2004, had the lowest divorce rate in the country in 2008. Its divorce rate declined 21% between 2003 and 2008. Alaska, which altered its constitution to prohibit gay marriage in 1998, saw a 17.2% increase in its divorce rate. The seven states with the highest divorce rates between 2003 and 2008 all had constitutional prohibitions to gay marriage."

Gay marriage is a good thing and should be legal in all fifty states. All human beings deserve the same equal rights, just because someone may be homosexual doesn't mean they should be treated differently. There is also many advantages to children that should be taken into consideration. Children who are waited to get adopted can finally have a home. Divorce rates will drop, and there will be an increase of people getting married, both homosexual and heterosexual.