Purpose and Revisions

I think my overall purpose for this comparison would be to bring light to the economic problems in our current society. I would like to show how poverty can be so difficult to compete against and this is seen throughout the world in many different ways, additionally, we need to start advocating for better wages and conditions in a way that is not just a short term fix.

Some revisions that I made mostly had to do with inserting commas and constructing my sentences to make them more clear. Such as places where I just used “they” instead of saying exactly what group I was referring to. I believe this overall helped to make my essay more clear and concise and provide more flow of the text for the reader.

When looking for feedback from outside sources in this case a tutor from our Tutor.com assignment I asked for help on my run on sentences and comma splices since I seem to have a decent amount of trouble in that field. She helped me see the errors I made and taught me comma rules, which I believe will help me greatly in the future. So after I received her help with that I continued to use that knowledge to edit the rest of my draft.
Today, all over the world, people fight to make ends meet, support themselves, and maybe even their whole family. However, regardless of the effort and time they put in, they can barely scrape by. Hopefully, you have never had to feel this way, but for many this is a constant reality that there is seemingly no escape from. This is why reaching a state of economic justice is so important in today’s world. I would like to discuss and compare two articles that further support this idea. The first one being Nicholas Kristof’s piece “Where Sweatshops Are a Dream”, where he shares with the reader just how horrible conditions can be for people in Cambodia who cannot find work, and their situations are so dire that they dream of being able to achieve a job in a sweatshop one day. The second article, Alan Taylor and Emily Epstein’s “Struggling to Make Ends Meet”, shares the story of a man named Francisco; he and his wife even though they work full time jobs barely make enough money to support them and their two kids, but there is seemingly no way out of this life for him, besides advocating for wages to increase. By comparing the differences and similarities of these articles, I hope to express why economic justice needs to be fought for and that the harsh lifestyles that some people are forced to live shouldn’t be accepted so easily.

If you read both of the articles, the first thing you would notice is the shocking difference in locations and realities that the authors are describing to the reader. In the article “Struggling to
Make Ends Meet” we meet Francisco, whose greatest dream is “one day buying a house, but doesn't know if that’ll ever be a possibility with his… economic reality”(Taylor and Epstein). This is, of course, very disheartening because the dream of one day getting a house should never feel out of reach to anyone, but while Francisco is unsatisfied with his one bedroom place and minimum wage job, people in Cambodia are working and practically living in garbage dumps, which is described as “a Dante-like vision of hell. It’s a mountain of festering refuse, a half-hour hike across, emitting clouds of smoke from subterranean fires.”(Kristof). While Francisco has to worry about delivering food in an unsafe neighborhood, children in Cambodia have to worry about getting “run over by garbage trucks”(Kristof) in the garbage dumps where they search for scraps to make money. I think that this huge difference in what reality can be like for those struggling economically in America versus those struggling in other parts of the world informs readers that even though they might not think the economy is that bad they need to take the time to think about what the problem looks like globally.

For many it’s easy to say you could get a better job, and not one that is minimum wage, if you go to college and get a degree; however, this is far from the truth. Another article that addresses unemployment states “so many college students rack up thousands and thousands of dollars in student loans, and then, they can't find a job that pays much more than minimum wage once they graduate” (Kennedy). This idea is greatly supported in the article “Struggling to Make Ends Meet” when Francisco’s wife “earned a BA in child development from a local college and earns just above minimum wage working at a daycare in Santa Monica”(Taylor and Epstein). This really shows that no matter what you do, it is hard to escape the minimum wage especially if you pick a degree that isn’t as marketable as others, and these “unmarketable majors are often
preferred by employers for... jobs in retail, food/hospitality customer service, and so on”(Kennedy). This idea isn’t expressly talked about in the article “Where Sweatshops Are a Dream” but I don’t think that college is even something that young people in Cambodia consider, or if they even get educated to a highschool level in the area that Kristof describes. These ideas further prove that things need to change because if people can’t dig themselves out of their situations, then they’ll continue to live a life of barely surviving.

It makes sense that depending on where you live, minimum wage may change or cost of living is different, but in the two articles I read the difference in money made was staggering. In the article “Struggling to Make Ends Meet” it said that “California became the first state to raise the minimum wage to $15. While the raise to $15 is eagerly welcomed, the wait is long and the relief is slow to be felt.”(Taylor and Epstein) which is so much dramatically different than Kristof’s piece where a person “earns a bit less than $1 a day scavenging in the dump.”I think this really puts in perspective the people discussed in the articles differences globally, and there is no way possible that one dollar a day could maintain anyone. While people in America complain about minimum wage not being enough and they have dreams of getting a nice car or house some people for example this location in Cambodia only ever wish for the opportunity to get a job which again exemplifies the lack of economic justice.

After reading both of these articles I believe it’s an undeniable fact that economic justice is something we need to strive for in our current society. We can see through both articles that there is now “a dismal job market”(Kennedy), and what does this mean for the generations after us since as Francisco states "they are our future."(Taylor and Epstein). I believe the viewing the widely different realities of people in America and Cambodia shows us the similarities in of
there lack of a way out of poverty, and the differences of the severity of these problems. Even though the people and places discussed are varying in their differences they share the connectivity of the lack of economic justice throughout the world.

Work Cited

