**The Definition and Purpose of Work**

Since my childhood, politics has remained a substantial part of my life. My grandfather, a steadfast conservative Republican and capitalist, is very open about his political beliefs and his stance on various political issues. Because of the many political debates which we have had at the dinner table, I am biased toward the capitalist view on work.

Work can be described as the activities which an individual completes with a purpose or goal in mind. These activities can range from completing a task that needs to be done without monetary benefit, such as volunteering, to chores or tasks which result in financial gain, such as ones for an employer. The goals or purposes can be related to the acquisition of money to allow persons to provide for themselves and their family or just to the satisfaction of completing the task. In order for society to function, all types of work must be completed, even if an individual finds a specific area of work degrading. Also, to be successful in life, individuals must work.

Individuals may believe that some of the employment opportunities available, such as positions in the fast-food or sanitation industries, are degrading which may lead to loss of self-respect. However, many of these jobs are essential for everyday life. If there was no one to clean buildings or make food in fast-food restaurants, then the way that many people are accustomed to living would change drastically. Such employment opportunities also stimulate the economy and allow individuals to meet their financial obligations. Individuals who find their work degrading can take measures to gain access to employment in other fields by continuing their education.

As I enter the workforce after college, my capitalistic views will motivate me to work hard and to further my education so that I will always be able to provide for my family and will enjoy a feeling of success because I am meeting my goal.