

Aufgaben

SB S. 64/3

“having Harriet Tubman on the \$20 bill really says, first of all, that America realizes it’s not the same country it once was – that it’s a place where diversity matters.” (ll. 28-32)

Explain the quotation in relation to the text and then summarize further examples mentioned by the author.

SB S. 76/6

“One solution could be to try to reduce the effect of filter bubbles by showing users a wider variety of opinions than their own”. (ll. 138-141)

Explain the quotation in relation to the text and then summarize further examples mentioned by the author.

SB S. 107/4

“It shows small actions can make the biggest difference, but we must not be complacent, as there is always more we can all do to reduce waste and recycle what we use.” (ll. 59-64)

Explain the quotation in relation to the text and then summarize further examples mentioned by the author.

SB S. 135/7

“Our addiction to consuming is a vicious one, and it’s having a markedly negative impact on virtually every aspect of our lives.” (ll. 79-82)

Explain the quotation in relation to the text and then summarize further examples mentioned by the author.

SB S. 161/3

“...there are some key differences between male and female entrepreneurship...we have different approaches, drivers and challenges.” (ll. 72-76)

Explain the quotation in relation to the text and then summarize further examples mentioned by the author.

SB S. 180/2

“‘Their response has been woefully inadequate,’ Cyril said. ‘What you’re doing is not working. It’s tantamount to neglect and racism itself.’” (ll. 86-90)

Explain the quotation in relation to the text and then summarize further examples mentioned by the author.

SB S. 183/2

“But if we are to help women to reach their potential and eliminate the gender pay gap, we need to shine a light on our workplaces to see where there is more to do.” (ll. 88-92)

Explain the quotation in relation to the text and then summarize further examples mentioned by the author.

Lösungsvorschläge

SB S. 64/3

Introduction

The text deals with the decision of the US Treasury to add an image of the female abolitionist leader Harriet Tubman to the new \$20 bill. The quotation is in fact not from the author of the text, but instead from Lonnie Bunch, the founding director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, who believes that the decision proves how diversity is now important in American society. This shows how the Treasury's decision is supported by those with an interest in African American rights, and this new "diversity" of American society mentioned by Bunch is not only of race but also of gender, as the new note will "reflect the contributions of women as well as men to our great democracy" (ll. 19-20).

Transition

Which other examples does the author give to show how diversity is now a more important aspect of American society?

Main part

The author explains how the new \$5 and \$10 bills will also honor the diversity of American history. The \$10 bill will have "an image of the historic march for suffrage" (ll. 43-44), therefore including other significant American women like "Lucretia Mott, Sojourner Truth, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Alice Paul" (ll. 46-49). The new \$5 bill will also honor two important moments of American history which involve diversity of both race and gender, namely "Marian Anderson's 1939 performance on the steps and Martin Luther King's 1963 'I Have a Dream' speech" (ll. 81-84). The racial and gender diversity that Harriet Tubman's appearance on the new \$20 bill represents is also present in the other new bills, which suggests that diversity is now important in the USA.

Conclusion

The text proves how the changes to the dollar bills reflect the increased importance of diversity within current American society. Not only is Harriet Tubman going to feature on the \$20 bill, but the new \$5 and \$10 bills will also honour women and African Americans, which shows how much diversity now matters in the USA.

SB S. 76/6

Introduction

This quotation concludes the text, which explains the problem of fake news spreading on Facebook, and specifically of "filter bubbles" of different political opinions developing. The author makes it clear in this quote that the issue of fake news has developed because social media "has progressively divided the political narrative into two distinct filter bubbles" (ll. 47-49), and that people would be better informed if they were "exposed to a diversity of views" (l. 144).

Transition

What evidence does the author give to suggest that people only receive information and opinions that are similar to their own, and that this is causing a problem of misinformation?

Main Part

The author introduces the idea of two distinct filter bubbles by describing "the bitter polarization" (l. 29) of Facebook. This entails a separation of opinions, meaning that people only read information that matches their own beliefs. The author explains how the more we interact with content that gives similar opinions to our own, "the more Facebook feeds us with similar posts" (ll. 46-47). Additionally the author expresses a desire for a "healthier discourse between people with different political views" (ll. 25-26) which these filter bubbles are preventing. The author provides statistics to prove how the polarization of opinion leads to fake news, as "38% of posts shared by three large rightwing politics pages on Facebook included 'false or misleading information'" (ll. 67-70), as "misinformation that aligns with our beliefs spreads like wildfire" (ll. 108-110).

Therefore exposing people to opinions that are not their own would help solve the problem of misinformation, and therefore would be a “solution“ as suggested in the quotation.

Conclusion

The author argues in the text that social media has led to people only seeing and reading political content that supports their own opinion, and has created an environment in which fake news is common. Therefore, the text concludes with this quotation to suggest that this problem could be solved by exposing people to different opinions and preventing the spread of “filter bubbles“.

SB S. 107/4

Introduction

The text is about the charge consumers have to pay in England any time they ask for a plastic bag. Once plastic bags did not cost anything, now they are 5p. The quote, from environment minister Therese Coffey, describes the charge as a small action which “can make the biggest difference“ (ll. 60 – 61) with the big difference being the dramatic decrease “by more than 85%“ (l. 8) in plastic bag usage since the introduction of the charge. So “a small change in our everyday habits“ (ll. 106 – 107) has resulted in “huge benefits“ (ll. 105 – 106). However, Coffey also emphasises how there is “always more we can all do“ because “around 8m tonnes of plastic makes its way into the world’s oceans each year“ (ll. 44-45).

Transition

Which other examples does the author give to suggest that there are still small actions we can do to make a big difference to protect the environment?

Main Part

The quotation is not from the author of the text, but instead from an expert on the subject which the author uses to support their argument. The text includes quotes from other experts who also say that small actions can make a difference; Andrew Pendleton says that “the plummeting plastic bag usage demonstrates the huge difference just a small change in our everyday habits can make“. Dr Sue Kinsey also adds that “there is always more that we can do“, which also agrees with the original quotation. The author also provides statistics to show how the carrier bags given out in 2014 equalled “61,000 tonnes of plastic“. This shows how small things in our life can have a big impact on the environment. The author also gives the example of plastic drinks bottles to prove how there is still more to be done to protect the environment; the number of such bottles found on the beach in 2015 was “up 43% on 2014 levels“.

Conclusion

The quotation from Therese Coffey shows how changes in our everyday life can have a big impact on the environment, but that there is still more to be done. The author gives further examples to support this point, namely statistics to prove the big difference that the charge on plastic bags has made, and the negative impact that everyday plastic bottles are currently having on the environment.

SB S. 135/7

Introduction

According to the quotation, we currently buy too much stuff and we cannot stop buying things, as our only solution to running out of space is to “buy a bigger house“ (ll. 87-88), rather than stopping our consumption. The author also believes that this situation is harmful to our whole lifestyle, as a study “showed that women’s stress hormones peaked during the times they were dealing with their possessions and material goods“ (ll. 75-78).

Transition

Which other examples does the author give to prove that we are addicted to consumerism and this addiction is harmful to many aspects of our lives?

Main Part

The author uses the increasing average size of homes in America to prove society's addiction to buying things. When we have too much stuff, we buy a bigger house – and American houses “ballooned to an average size of 2,480 square feet“ (ll. 18-19) in 2011. This shows how people cannot stop buying things, instead having to buy a new house. The author also argues how this addiction has a negative impact on our lives, as “it costs you – and in more ways than you might think“ (ll. 62-62). This cost is partly economic, as the author mentions how “the personal storage industry rakes in \$22bn each year“ (ll. 7-8) from people who do not have enough space for their stuff. This cost is also the time that we spend looking after our stuff, as the author argues that our “life will be spent a slave to your possessions“ (ll. 49-50). Furthermore, the text argues that our new stuff does not bring a positive impact to our lives, as our new things are „useless“ (l. 42).

Conclusion

As we can see from the text, our society is obsessed with buying new things and cannot stop doing this. The author also argues that this is making our lives worse, due to the time and money that we spend on looking after all of our stuff.

SB S 161/3

Introduction

The text takes the form of an interview with a female entrepreneur, Bev Hurley, who gives the opinion in this quotation that there are fundamental differences between male and female entrepreneurs. Despite the fact that women “face exactly the same challenges as male-owned businesses in terms of starting and growing“ (ll. 69-71), Hurley believes that female business owners sometimes have different approaches or challenges, namely “childcare, parent care and different attitudes to risk“ (ll. 76-78).

Transition

Which other examples does Hurley provide to suggest that female entrepreneurship has unique aspects compared with male businesses?

Main Part

Hurley argues that the main difference in approach between male and female business owners is their attitudes to risk. She says that “women are more cautious when it comes to money and are scared about going into debt“ (ll. 98-100). Furthermore, this may be a result of the fact that “they typically have less capital to invest“ (ll. 83-84), which is also proof of the different challenges that women face when running a business. Hurley expands on this by mentioning how “one of the barriers to startups is a lack of role models“ (ll. 144-145) for women. She also gives an example of how childcare can be a unique challenge or driver for women; one woman told her “I can bring my toddler to the conference and breastfeed him“ (ll. 93-95).

Conclusion

As we can see from the interview with Bev Hurley, female entrepreneurship is fundamentally different from male business, due to the range of different challenges that female business owners face, as well as the general trend that women are less likely to take risks in business than men.

SB S. 180/2

Introduction

The quotation refers to the problems of censorship on Facebook, and Malkia Cyril criticises the company for not doing enough to counteract violent and racist posts such as “photos of lynchings, photos of dead black people at the hands of white Ku Klux Klan members“ (ll. 65-67). The “inadequate“ response that Cyril refers to is the reply to a letter from a coalition of civil rights groups that suggested improvements; Facebook's response “did not address civil rights campaigners' concerns“ (ll. 80-81) and “largely failed to commit to act on the recommendations“ (ll. 84-86).

Transition

Which other examples does the author give to support the argument that there is a problem of racist posts on Facebook, and that the company is not doing enough to counteract this?

Main Part

The author shows how there is a “racially biased“ (ll. 10-11) censorship of Facebook posts by giving examples of racist posts like “an image of a slave auction“ (ll. 98-99) which “complied with the company’s standards“ (ll. 109-110), while an anti-racism post saying “white folks when racism happens in public YOUR SILENCE IS VIOLENCE“ (ll. 113-115) was removed. The author also argues that Facebook’s response to this problem has been poor, as “users who report violent and racist language and overt threats often have a hard time getting Facebook to respond“ (ll. 47-50). The text also argues that only high-profile issues are resolved, meaning that the platform is a “daily nightmare for many regular users, especially people of color targeted by trolls“ (ll. 55-57).

Conclusion

The quote from Malkia Cyril argues that Facebook has a problem of racism that it is failing to solve, and the author of the text supports this argument with examples of racist posts that are currently allowed within Facebook’s system, as well as showing the lack of an effective response from Facebook when these problems are reported.

SB S. 183/2Introduction

This quotation is by Justine Greening, the minister for women and equalities, who has just launched a new gender pay gap checker which revealed a “18.1% difference in average pay between men and women“ (ll. 13-15). She argues that to counteract this pay gap people need to examine their workplaces, and that this new tool will help people to “challenge this issue in their profession“ (ll. 94-95).

Transition

Which other examples does the author give to suggest that our workplaces need to be scrutinised in order to solve the issue of the gender pay gap?

Main Part

The author uses the statistics from the new gender pay gap checker to prove how the difference between men and women is a problem in the workplace. For example, “women classed as ‘chief executives and senior officials‘ are paid 28.7% less than men in that group“ (ll. 28-31); the text later argues that the reason for this may be the lack of women in senior roles, “which may be down to people’s attitudes to gender roles“ (ll. 69-70). The text also gives examples of how workplaces need to be examined to try and improve this situation, as there are new laws “that will force large employers to report their gender pay and gender bonus gaps“ (ll. 77-79), which will affect almost 8,000 companies.

Conclusion

The text makes it clear that the gender pay gap is still an issue, and needs to be addressed by examining the problems within workplaces, such as the attitudes to gender roles that prevent as many women from working in senior roles as men. The author also uses statistics to show how these problems mean that women earn less than men on average.