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4 English

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March 30, 2017

**Seaira’s Individual Paper**

Do you know what materializes or informality mean? How about self-help? The definition of materialism is a tendency to consider material possessions and physical comfort as more important than spiritual values. Relaxed, friendly, or unofficial style or nature; absence of formality is the definition of informality. Self-help is directly the ability to use one’s own efforts and resources to help them achieve things without relying on others. Each of these words are examples of American values.

A percentage of Americans think being formal is “un-American”. Un-American means unlike, or different than the “American-way”. For instance, in the story, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, the children were treating the adults with little to no respect. An example of an event would be when Atticus got onto the kids for treating Mrs. Dubose wrongfully.

Some Americans see citizens as materials. For example, in *Requiem for the American Dream*, Noam Chomsky said, “*Elections are not about the people or or anyone else, it’s about advertisement*.” (Chomsky) Another example is Manufacture Consent which is something you shouldn’t want or need. This is when people put consumer products on stock with a price that may not fit the item.

Achieving something by yourself is better than having it passed down to you. An example could be, Oprah Winfrey. Winfrey was sexually abused as a child, but later she became the most successful African American woman today. Winfrey is well-known for surpassing her competition to bring the most watched daytime television show, *Anna May Wong*.

In the story, *Everything, Everything*, the author tells a story about a young girl having a mental disease and having all the time in the world because she can’t leave her house. This is a great example of time and control. We see American value everyday. From the way we speak to the way we dress. Our American-value is very noticeable.