

South Tahoe High School

Grade 10

First Place

In a perfect world there is no such thing as lying or cheating or stealing of any sort. Unfortunately, this world is far from perfect. Anderson claims that in order to keep someone down, one must also keep themselves down. In theory this may apply, but in reality this argument has flaws. People have been and continue to take advantage of others for their own personal gain.

Anderson's passage makes assertive claims, but, after careful study, are inaccurate. The passage states that one cannot reach their maximum potential while limiting another's. History and common sense debate this. In the middle ages priests and bishops from the Christian religion would often take advantage of people's fear of god to their own end. This is how a bishop or pope would influence a monarchy under fear of rejection or wrath of God to gain power, fame, and money. A more recent example involves Watson and Crick's experiment called x-ray defraction to prove that DNA is double helix. Rosalin Franklin played a vital role in their defraction experiment but wasn't recognized until recently because Watson and Crick wanted all of the credit. The scientific community went with the well known Watson and Crick and not with this relatively new Rosalin Franklin. Watson and Crick became famous because they knew how to take advantage of others.

This theme of how to take advantage of a person for another's benefit is still relatable to today. The entertainment industry is guilty of this aln music it is common for an artist to steal a song from another artist. The song "bulldog" was stolen from a marginal artist and performed by a famous artist and the result was a popular song. Also, watch the media. Many stories are stolen from other small news stations to show on major media corporation. No mention of the original source is made but all the hard work from the original source is happily taken by CNN or MSNBC. Why is there patents if there was no usable purpose for taking advantage of other people's work, discoveries or inventions?

After carefully weighing the logic of Anderson's passage, I will have to disagree. People have been taking advantage of others for centuries and still continues. People can better themselves at the expense of others.