11 Regents English

“Serving in Florida” by Barbara Ehrenreich

Due: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Read the short essay on the impact of working minimum wage jobs along with the Parade magazine articles “What People Earn” and “What People Earn: Then and Now.”

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper using quotes and examples from the text as well as your own commentary. Your answers should be developed using at least **THREE – FIVE** sentences in order to receive a quality grade.

1. What is the central idea of the text? Include a quote and explain how it connects to the central idea.
2. Ehrenreich builds her argument about the difficulties of living on minimum or near-minimum wage through her use of examples. Select one of her examples that caught your attention and explain the reason for your selection. Include a quote from the text and explain its meaning.
3. Ehrenreich’s piece makes us rethink employment: contrary to what many comfortable middle or upper-class people might think, it is clear from this text that employed people can be homeless or at least in a precarious financial position. What is your response to the idea that even though someone is employed, he/she can still struggle financially? Include a quote and explain its meaning.
4. Select a rhetorical device (diction, detail, syntax, imagery) that was strong in the text and explain its importance to the text. Include a quote and explain how it is important to the deeper meaning of the text.
5. Based on the Parade magazine listing of what people earn from various jobs, which one surprised you the most and why? Which job are you most interested in and why? Why does it catch your attention? Explain your choices.
6. Based on the Parade magazine article “What People Earn: Then and Now” reflect on the changes in occupations and pay from the past and the present. Select a job from the past and comment on why it is no longer relevant in the modern era. Include an example from the text and support your choice. Select a job from the present and comment on why it is relevant to the modern world. Include an example from the text and support your choice.
7. What are you looking for in a part-time job at this point of your life? What matters to you in seeking a job as a teenager? Explain your priorities.

1. Reflect on your own job experience and share what your work world looks like. If you are working, describe your job, include what you like/dislike about your job, how long have you worked there, and think about how long you would like to stay there.

If you are not working, reflect on being unemployed; is this a choice? Are you searching? Do you have any desire to work? Explain.

1. As you decide on a career, what factors are important to you when considering long-term employment? What are your thoughts on pay? Do you want to like your job? What kind of benefits are important to you? Explain your criteria.
2. Looking into the future, when would you like to retire? What would you like to do in retirement? What do you think you’ll need to do to plan for your retirement? What would you like your life to look like when you are 50-60 years of age?