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## **Woodbridge Essay**

Many people many say that the 1920s were very bad times, and some may even say it was horrible in some ways. For example, alcohol was banned, so gangs and other suppliers were selling alcohol without the police knowing. Such as, Al Capone's gang and Bugs Moran's gang, which were both involved in the St. Valentine's Day Massacre, in Chicago of 1929. Racism and segregation were a bad problem in the 1920s. Separate fountains, schools, buses, and many more other places were only for white people or only for African-American's. Setting aside all the bad happenings, there were a lot of good events such as African-American's standing up for them selves. During the Plessey vs. Ferguson case a man was arrested and sent to trial for sitting in the "white car" not the "black car" of a train. People everywhere were discriminating African American, and they began to take hold of the situation and fight the system. These two events impacted our lives indubitably. They have made us become better people and now we look back at the things that happened.

Child Labor Laws were a big issue in the 1920s, but in 1925 they began to think about how they could do away with it. In the Woodbridge Independent, there is an article with the title "Child Labor Laws" which is all about the idea of cutting down or getting rid of child labor under the age of 18. "The amendment provides that 'Congress shall have power to limit, regulate and prohibit the labor of persons less than eighteen years of age.'" (Woodbridge Independent). They were also thinking about children, possibly having the option of working under 18, but as low as 16 years of age. Today, in this age, the child labor law has become a law remains in effect. Today, and back then, could be compared, because kids don't work under the age of 18, and/or possibly 16. This event in these two time periods can be seen to have a contrast, because back then kids worked to get job skills, and now college is a way of life.

Drugs, today and back then, are still an issue and are still addictive. People back then were taking the drug opium. Opium is a drug that comes from a poppy plant, which makes the consumers looked glassy-eyed and pale. "Is it any wonder that up and down the streets of our cities walk men and women, pale-faced, glass-eyed, and with nervous step." (Woodbridge Independent). Many people were concerned with the consumption of the drug and the amount of citizens taking it. Drugs are still used today and a lot of people are using drugs across the United States even in Woodbridge, New Jersey. Many changes have occurred in the drug industry. Today people use other drugs, such as cocaine, heroin, and marijuana. The use and consumption of opium has decreased throughout the years and is rarely used today.

In the Woodbridge Independent, there is a comic strip pertaining to kids not doing their homework, "Teacher can a person be punished for something he hasn't done?" The teacher replied, "Why of course not. Why do you ask?" Finally, the child ended the conversation with, "Cause I haven't done my lessons." In the strip, the comical writer was showing that kids didn't do their homework back in 1925. Kids today, mostly do their homework, because I think it is more advanced and serious. Today, teachers and school staff members have created more advanced detention and rewards for doing homework. There are still students who don't do their homework and could be compared to children in 1925.

"Monday's Ice Causes Car to Crash into Trains", is an article in the Woodbridge Independent, about a man whose car was covered in ice and crashed into a moving train. The man's name was William J. Kling, and he was driving a truck, which had ice on the windshield of the truck causing him to not see. Ice is an issue in this part of the country. The winter always comes and that means ice. Today, and back then, it has been bad and is still bad today. The only difference between today and now, with ice, is that today they have advanced ways to tell people to stay off the roads and salt, but there is a slimmer chance of that crash happening again.

The auto industry has changed over many years, from 1925 to today. Cars and transportation have changed; they are faster for instance. In the Carteret Press, there is an article about a child who was hit by a car and only injured two toes. Today in age, cars are faster and would have caused more damage than just a toe injury. Comparisons could be made within the times, because there are so many more accidents today and in 1925. This is probably because our population has grown drastically.

Gas today is expensive, and has many highs and lows to the cost. Electricity is as well the same way, the price may vary. The article "Saving the Public" is about how the cost of gas and the cost of electricity have been reduced. This would be a major plus to life today, because everything is getting expensive, so it must have been good news back then as well. Recently, the cost of gas in some areas has gone down and made a lot of people very happy. The only difference between then and now is that today prices vary much more now than they did then.

Changes throughout the years have been made, but much of what has happened could be compared and contrasted to life today. Laws, drugs, kids, weather, accidents, the auto industry, and the economic situations have and will change over the years. As you can see, they have changed from 1925 to today.

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