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Mrs. Kim Buchanan
LNG 406-5
January 20, 2011

① MLA header in the correct order

① Assignment title

① - 12pt, Times New Roman
① - double spaced

Socratic Circle Discussion Questions: "JFK Inaugural Address" and "City Upon a Hill"

Question 3: Puritans came to the New World in order to escape the oppression they suffered in England and to begin a new settlement where they could put their faith into practice. How would John Winthrop, a Puritan minister, likely view America today?

Response [334]:

topic sentence
②

John Winthrop, thinking that he was leaving England's "common corruptions of this evil world," (3) to create an America that would serve as a beacon of light for the rest of the world would, undoubtedly, balk at our country's current levels of moral decay. Winthrop most certainly

textual evidence ③

would struggle understanding today's media, and not just because he had never heard of electricity. While it is true he would be baffled by a teenager's iPod and its technological functions, he would feel much more strongly a sense of disgust and dismay at the lyrics he heard from it. Sure, our politicians love to mention "the hand of God" (Kennedy 1) and claim to share our forefathers' moral beliefs, but this would seem to Winthrop nothing more than sickening hypocrisy.

elaborates on topic sentence

Because, after all, how many presidents have been guilty of moral turpitude? Kennedy, Nixon, and Clinton come to mind immediately. Even still, Winthrop would be wrong to write off our nation at a glance especially since society constantly changes. Specifically, Kennedy referred to his election as "signifying renewal, as well as change" (2). And he's right, Our culture is perpetually transforming—whether every four years with a new president's victory, or because of man's propensity for fighting world-shifting wars, or with the innovations in technology we create. A Puritan settler such as Winthrop would know nothing of these developments, and without knowing the events that brought about change, he would not therefore understand that change. While Winthrop would likely be aghast about the indecencies he would be exposed to in our society (*Jersey Shore* comes to mind), he would probably be proud of us for carrying on his wishes that we "labor and suffer together" (Winthrop). Furthermore, Kennedy made it a point in his inaugural speech that we should "explore the problems which unite us" (2) because "divided there is little we can do" (2). This carrying on of concepts such as these that founded our culture would turn Winthrop's horror-struck grimace into a smile. Probably.

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concluding sentence that connects with topic sentence

one word sentence for effect