Be sure to put your last name and page number on each page including the first one

**A** Ted: This is very well done with excellent examples. I can see where you tried to expand your conclusion.

Middle Class Represents All Americans

Humans being social creatures Don’t split the verb here—example, As social creatures, humans avoid. . .etc. or Because humans are social creatures they avoid. . .etc. avoid deviating too far from the norm in fear of being alienated from their communities. Being normal is simply being no more and no less than others; essentially being the middle of the pack. As such, most Americans will perceive themselves to be part of the middle class, regardless of their income status. Although some dream of greater achievement, most will settle for what is a normal life according to society. Therefore, being a part of the middle class means that one fits into and causes no harm towards society. But as society progresses, societal views and values change. This very same definition is becoming obsolete as society here and now, celebrates diversity and individual accomplishment rather than the achievements of the group; it is no longer a necessity to conform to fit in.well done

One method of describing what the middle class is identifying what does not constitute being part of the middle class, one of which is being part of the poor. One of the first groups to settle in the English colonies in America was werethe puritanscapitalize , religious dissidents who believed in strict work ethics. Although the puritans are not nearly as influential as they were in the 17th century, their ideas about strict work ethics still remain today. As an example, some parents will chide their children who laze about “those who don’t work don’t eat, but those who do will find their own reward”. Both a reprimand as well as a lesson to live by, this attitude encourages a person to maintain a good work ethic so they may reap such rewards that come through persistence and effort. While this serves as a warning it also perpetuates the belief that the impoverished are lethargic. Since a civilized nation cannot have its citizen die of starvation, the state must take care of those without jobs or too poor to afford food. Consequently, many Americans look down on the destitute, believing them to be a drain on society. Being self-sufficient is a core value of the middle class, and as such, people who receive money from welfare programs are not part of the middle class.

Since a defining feature of the middle class is being normal or “fitting in”, those who set themselves apart from their fellow citizens with their wealth cannot be part of the middle class. Americans gained their independence through a war orchestrated by aristocrats and monarchs of the British Empire.Perhaps this is an oversimplification—did not the colonial upper class have their role in this, too? The rivalry that developed in the years following set these two nations apart, with the newly independent Americans valuing fair and equal opportunities in action over the rigid caste system of their former overlords. While the average Americans bought American products to support the home market, the rich imported British products because they wanted luxurious products to look more special. This was unpatriotic in the eyes of many Americans and created a gap between those who bought British goods and those who bought American goods. Even without a history of aristocracy, the wealthy Americans managed to separate themselves from the American norm of supporting the home market. Even in other aspects of the American society, the rich used their gold to grant themselves special privileges. For drafts, they paid for a substitute. For agriculture, they bought slaves to work the land. By being exempt from war and labor, the wealthy had more opportunities to things others were too busy to do. One example is being involved in the political process through paying for lobbyists to convince politicians to lower taxes for the rich. Even though men are born equal, the rich people make themselves too good for the middle class and many resent them for that. By buying privileges, wealthy people remove themselves from the middle class. A good point about availability of leisure. During the Civil War the rich could pay substitutes to go to war for them, thereby avoiding the draft for military service

Although the middle class previously did not include the poor or the rich, society generally came to accept these groups. By listening to the stories of poor individuals, Americans came to realize that the puritan work ethic view is not completely correct and that laziness is not the only cause for poverty. As stated in “Attitudes Cross Class Lines” by Alan Wolfe, this was largely thanks to President Clinton who “helped abolish stereotypical views of welfare recipients as ungrateful wastrels.” Due to this change in attitude, the impoverished are now able to fit into society without creating much trouble. Before the welfare reform, people saw the poor as being parasites of society, but people now view them as unfortunates who can rejoin the workforce if given a little help. As for the wealthy members of society, people started to empathize with them. During the Bush administration, “President Bush’s tax cuts” made people of the middle class realize that they “envy the rich, rather than resent them.” Even though the middle class people do not make nearly as much as rich people, they still agree that they do not like paying tax as much as the wealthy. Also, people realized that the rich donate money to important institutions such as schools and hospitals in order to avoid paying a higher tax. Although not all wealthy people donate money, this act demonstrates to the middle class that they do not like paying taxes and would rather see their money used for the benefit of their community. People of the middle class realized that disliking tax is normal and that they would do the same if they were rich. Thus, although the wealthy tend to isolate themselves from society, they still fit into the society due to their financial contributions. Even though the wealthy or the poor do not make the same amount of money as most people, they still fit into the society, which makes the very act of defining the middle class pointless.

The middle class used to be “hard working and therefore self-deserving”, but that was back when society was exclusive and did not try to understand othersI’m not sure what you mean here. By nature, the identity of the middle class is clouded. As Paul Taylor states in his article, “Who Should Be the Judge”, middle class is “a state of mind.” Whether a family’s annual “income is below $40,000” or “above $150,000”, the family would claim “to live a middle class life.” Being a part of the middle class is claiming that one is normal just like “the population as a whole.” This definition currently does not mean much in today’s society since “almost all Americans consider themselves resident” of the middle class. However, in the past, being a part of the middle class had some relevance because society did not accept everyone as normal. Single mothers, homosexuals, and any other non-white people were considered outsiders by the white male majority society. During that time, these outcasts had to conform and lose their identity since the old society did not view the identity they are born with as normal. Due to how today’s society does not discriminate based on race, gender, or any other factors, people can fit in while remaining true to themselves. Thus, everyone can be part of the middle class without having to conform to a set of discriminating views. While the middle class might be pointless due to how everyone is part of it, middle class should not have been exclusive in the first place since everyone is normal and no person or group of people should condemn anyone as abnormal; it should be a given fact that everyone is normal if society is to be truly diverse.

The middle class is no longer relevant because no one tries to exclude anyone from it. A social class is defined to distinguish one person from another, but the middle class is different in a way that it is used to represent the whole population. In a diverse society like America, the middle class encompasses all residents and treats everyone as normal. Since less people are treated as abnormal, there is far less social tension now and there is no better condition to have a democracy than one without outcasts.