The people who take initiative and make the changes that they feel are necessary are often modest and otherwise undistinguished. They see that no one else is impelled to act, and take the responsibility of doing so upon themselves, whether said act is subtle or dramatic . Such people are present in our society and scattered throughout history and literature. An example is Mother Teresa, who was a teacher before she felt a need to help alleviate the problems of others, because she felt too little was being done about it. A generally inconsequential person can bring about radical reform in this way. When immersed in a community of impassive people, a normally abiding and commonplace individual can be spurred into action by the lethargy of those surrounding them. One of my favorite thesis statements!

Leonard Mead is filled by feelings of despair whenever he witnesses the populace of his town all glued to television screens and ignorant to the beauty of nature, which motivates him to take his lonely walks. For instance, his opinion of the common lifestyle is demonstrated when he states, "And on his way he would see the cottages and homes with their dark windows, and it was not unequal to walking through a graveyard where only the faintest glimmers of light appeared behind the windows" (Bradbury 57). Leonard does not understand why the townspeople do not share his attraction to the natural world, and they seem to lack the human instinct of curiosity. While he is sympathetic to their plight, he knows that there is nothing he can do to help them, which is why he doesn't take drastic action (like that performed by Harrison Bergeron). Moreover, one can see the inactivity that Mead despises in the passage, "In ten years of walking by night and day, for thousands of miles, he had never met another person walking, not one in all that time" (Bradbury 59). The severity of the problem is shown here, as people don't see any reason to leave their homes; the people never leave their comfort zone, and therefore never improve themselves. As a result, Leonard takes the point of view that if no one else is

going to live their life to its full potential, then he should make the most of his in their place. Perhaps Leonard feels a subconscious need to make up for his peer's complacency with his own activity. *show* CS

Ralph and Simon are both driven to action by the idleness of their companions: Ralph embraces his leadership role, whereas Simon seeks recluse. For example, when Ralph is elected chief, he notices Jack's disappointment, and as a result he decides to bestow him with some power. "He started up, then changed his mind and sat down again while the air rang. Ralph looked at him, eager to offer something" (Golding 20). He is empathetic towards Jack, as he knows that he is outspoken and a natural leader, and his silence shows how upset he truly is. As the leader of the choir and an influential figure among the boys, Jack is someone that Ralph wants to be on good terms with; Ralph takes this opportunity to obtain respect from Jack, which turns out to be a wise leadership decision. On the other hand, the aforementioned action can be much more subtle than stepping into a position of power. *In essence,* Simon displays this with his behavior at the boys' last assembly. "The assembly was shocked into silence... Simon felt a perilous necessity to speak; but to speak in assembly was a terrible thing for him" (Golding 98). Simon cannot come to terms with the fact that no one else among the boys, not even someone as intelligent as Piggy, can diagnose why their efforts at civility and order are failing. Subsequently, he exiles himself from the group to hide from the close-mindedness of the others. These two opposing forms of activity demonstrate the different measures that one can be pushed towards.

Equality is appalled by the indifference and blind obedience of the members of his society, and goes so far as to ostracize himself from civilization, and form his own community *not an IC* 4 based on liberty and individualism. In this case, Equality uses the peoples' idleness to help him break free from the restraints of his society. "We knew that the men would not follow us, for they never enter the Uncharted Forest... so we walked on, our box in our arms, our hearts empty" (Rand 76). Equality uses the community's innate tendency to avoid the unknown as a means for

escape, and can therefore realize his dream of founding a free-thinking society. If the

townspeople had any motivation, he would have been followed and possibly caught, meaning

that for the time being, there would be no change in this dystopia; the languor of Equality's city is

therefore pivotal to his success. Conversely, when one is ignorant towards the torpidity of others,

one cannot diagnose problems and seek the solution, as demonstrated when Equality pictures

what the final days of our modern society must have been like. "But I still wonder how it was

possible, in those graceless years of transition, long ago, that men did not see whither they were

going, and went on, in blindness and cowardice, to their fate," (Rand 103). Disregard and

unawareness were the cause of the descent into this dysfunctional society, as there must have

been warning signs of the imminent loss of self-purpose. Because people were blind to this

threat, they saw no need to take action, resulting in such a societal decline. As a result, vigilance

is necessary, or the motivation to act when needed will not be present.

An apathetic environment can serve as an inspiration to act for everyday people. The

attitudes of one's colleagues are negligible, and improvement and change can come from

someone surrounded by stoic people. This is important as many people at one point or another

feel that their peers do not acknowledge a certain problem. This frustration can be used to

inspire activity, and eventually, innovation. This source of actuation is part of human nature, and

can be used to bring about refinement and improvement for generations to come.