

Is it important to question ideas & decisions of people in positions of authority?

## Practice Essay

Society functions when there is legitimacy and popular consensus with the governors or leaders. When people have new ideas and unprecedented thoughts, it is important to question and challenge authority. This way, a society has room to make progress. In other words, it is necessary to question ideas and decisions of people in positions of authority. This is illustrated through by scientists, political advocates, and government systems.

One compelling example that shows how critical it is to question ideas of authoritative figures is demonstrated by Charles Darwin, the Father of Evolution. Darwin, a voluptuous, ambitious scientist, explored the Galapagos Islands and postulated the idea of hypothesis of natural selection which is in turn, a mechanism for evolution. He saw that the <sup>turtles</sup>~~birds~~ and finches of one island to the next were very similar, yet had adaptations enabling the species to survive in their habitats. This idea of adaptation to evolution was unprecedented; it challenged the orthodox church and the public's ~~puritan~~ <sup>and the holy church and priests</sup> beliefs based on the Bible. Darwin later gathered more evidence to substantiate his challenge to creation, writing in his book, On the Origins of Species, that ~~how~~ evolution is the explanation to the origins of mankind. This way of challenging the religious views of religion led a revolution of new scientific and medical research that helped humanity become more advanced. Had Darwin not brought this new idea up, scientific research and the understanding of how humans came to be would be very behind and little progress would have been made. Therefore, when one has new ideas, whether the public views them as correct or erroneous, it is important to bring them up and

challenge the old ideas upheld by authoritative figures.

Another paragon demonstrating the necessity of challenging ideas of people with authority is demonstrated by activists of the Civil Rights Movement. In 1954, a black woman in Alabama, Rosa Parks, ~~decided to~~ refused ~~giving~~ to give up her seat to a white man on the bus - she was not physically tired; she was tired of ~~the~~ racial inequalities and segregation. ~~from~~ Her action serves as a questioning to the American Constitution and the people's rights.

This action prompted the Montgomery Bus Boycott, led by Martin Luther King, who peacefully demonstrated and lead protests against segregation. He, too, questioned the idea of segregation, believing that everyone in America should have equal opportunities. He gave his famed "I Have a Dream" speech, and ~~thereby~~ rose awareness. In 1964, the Supreme Court passed an act ~~that~~ declaring racial segregation - was unconstitutional in Alabama. Park and King's questioning of authority helped ~~to~~ successfully lead an entire population out of oppression and into a world where everyone is equal and free. Therefore, questioning authority is extremely important when inequalities exist.

A final example illustrating the effectiveness of questioning ideas and decisions of people and positions of authority is present in the British Parliamentary government. In the Westminster model of parliamentary government, Ministers in the cabinet are allowed to directly question the Prime Minister during the weekly Prime Minister (PM) questioning time. This enables urgent issues and questions to be brought up to the head of government. One case of the usefulness of this system was in 1997 when PM, Tony Blair, was questioned by a Scottish National Party member about devolution rights for the people of Scotland.

Scotland, on the verge of separating from the British government, wanted to negotiate a system where they could have their own government. Therefore, Blair, in his movement to democratize ~~and~~ the British Countries, pushed an Act of Parliament to grant the Scottish power to tax its people up to 3% and create legislation independent of Parliament. This helped to mitigate the idea of separatism and helped the public achieve progress successfully. Therefore, the system of parliamentary Questions helps the Ministers bring up ideas and question the future of the nation, enabling more public content and legitimacy for the government. The large scale implementation of questioning authority in Britain has proved itself a useful tool to help ensure political stability and achieve progress.

Exemplified by Charles Darwin, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, and the British Parliament, questioning authority helps ensure that people can be represented in their ideas and that ~~new~~ novel ideas to drive society can be presented. It is very important to always be aware that authority may not always be correct; therefore, as productive members of society, we must voice our thoughts when existing thoughts and ideas are not fair. This will not only benefit ourselves, but it will also benefit the future generations of mankind.