Adversities of Change

"If you stick a knife in my back nine inches and pull it out six inches, there's no progress. If you pull it all the way out, that's not progress. The progress is healing the wound that the blow made." Malcom X, March 1964. In the midst of the civil rights movement few stood out like Malcom X. A leader with the ability to strike change. He, like many of us, understood that change can be difficult, but with simple language he showed how that change is needed. This leads me to propose some reasons why we should change. One of the main reasons we should take on this challenge is that we will be able to turn back. Along with the outcome having the ability to have positive effects on our community.This is all to say that change is needed whether the outcome is positive or negative.

Though it may be difficult, we should take on this challenge knowing that if the negatives become too numerous we will be able to make further changes to counteract any negatives that could arise. We may try to make some changes too quickly leading to hardships, or the idea the change is based off of may be flawed and we could end up with many negative consequences. After all the negatives start to arise we will be able to avoid them with more long or short term changes or if the idea is so fundamentally flawed we can abandon the change altogether. A simple anecdote from my life is that when I was young I would go on a lot of road trips with my family, and any time my dad thought he saw a shortcut he would take it most of the time we made it there with no issues, showing the positive effects, but sometimes this change in plan could cause us to get lost. This could always be fixed though by going back the way we came. This anecdote exemplifies the idea that you can turn back if there are any issues with your newfound changes. When this took place though most of the time it was successful any time it wasn't it was easily resolved with another change of plans to counteract the issues that arose. Showing that we can counteract any negatives that arise.

Taking on a challenge of change as a community will support a feeling of community support and cohesion. This mainly stems from the challenges that are faced to put the change into effect. This can be exemplified by explaining how team cohesion forms. To summarize, *Team Dynamics Theory: Nomological network among cohesion, team mental models, coordination, and collective efficacy*, cohesion forms from a group as they undergo activities with a common goal. This proves that the challenge is needed to introduce cohesion into the community. For the group to come together and build cohesion they need to have a common goal or in this case they must all want to make it through the challenging part of change to reach their goals.

Some may say that we should not attempt to change as it may be too difficult to undergo. I would agree that it will be difficult to undergo change, but I would say that the difficulty can be overcome to lead to greater benefits. A perfect example is the Selma to Montgomery March. Where they were beaten back to Selma on the same day it started. Some, like Christopher Klein even call this the Turning point of the movement. Suggesting that out of difficulty comes greater benefits.

"You can't hate the roots of the tree without ending up hating the tree." Malcom X. If we hate the tree we must change it, if we don't want the fruits to be poisonous then we have to change the roots of the tree. Now that we have made it through one valley we find ourselves in another. One even lower in its despair, but yet just high enough to keep everyone above water. To make it out alive this time we must take even more drastic measures. In our last valley of

despair the water had swallowed many, but just enough were dry to pull the rest back onto land. On the other hand the desperation has changed into a need for action before everyone sinks under. We must accept the challenge of change now before we are unable to escape the water. In a wider sense we have adapted in the past, but now we have become so stubborn as to follow our ways to a point of no return without change in sight.

Sources:

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How Selma's 'Bloody Sunday' Became a Turning Point in the Civil Rights Movement by Christopher Klein. https://www.history.com/news/selma-bloody-sunday-attack-civil-rights-movement

Self-Biography:

My name is Brayden Wiese, and I was born in 2007. I have 6 siblings. I went on a lot of road trips as a child. I lived in Mississippi from 2014-2015.