

Direct and Indirect Citation

LAB DAY MONDAY

Using Citation in an Argument

Greed is Good

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Greed is typically considered a major source of evil and the primary cause of stealing, hoarding, plundering, cheating and war, just to name a few of its unfortunate results. But when it's not ruining the world, greed can also be good.

For instance, greed is good because it is the most important incentive for people to work hard, get a good education, start a business, or invest in a company. The desire to earn money and accumulate goods and property makes people productive, contributing members of society. In return for their efforts, people are paid a salary, become more educated, and if they're lucky, build wealth so they can live a prosperous, comfortable, fulfilled life.

Unfortunately, the desire to accumulate also leads to three types of bad greed.

First, after some people have collected a large enough personal wealth, they retire, thus making them no longer productive members of society, but instead people who use more resources than they contribute. Sure, they may invest their wealth in stocks, bonds, real estate, and other financial investments; however, they are selfishly idle instead of contributing more to society. Of course, not every retired person is capable of traditional work, but they could still contribute. For example, instead of playing golf with other retirees in Florida, they could babysit their grandchildren or even their their grandchildren to fish or knit. In other words, it is all right to retire from work but do not to retire from society. Anyone physically and mentally capable of working, should do so.

Secondly, some people accumulate wealth long after they already have enough money for the rest of their lives. They leave so much inheritance that even their children and grandchildren cannot possibly use all of it. This is why some people, such as Bill Gates, his wife Melinda, and Warren Buffet are donating most of their huge fortunes to charity. They understand the virtue of generosity, instead of succumbing to greed. We should all be so lucky that we amass fortunes huge enough to be able to give fortunes away!

Third and finally, greed sometimes drives people to do unethical, immoral, and illegal things in the pursuit of more money. Obviously, there is no defense for this sort of greed, but is it any worse than the other types, or is it just an extreme case of letting our desire to be comfortable get in the way of what is best for everyone? For instance, a man once stole millions of dollars by causing just a penny or two from everyone's phone bill to be deposited into his account. Was he greedy? Absolutely, and what he did was clearly illegal, but when you consider the people he hurt only lost a few pennies, it's hard to see that he caused much damage.

Greed is typically considered the accumulation of wealth for personal satisfaction. It has no useful purpose except to become rich and to continue getting more wealthy. It is a strong desire in each and every one of us that is extremely difficult to overcome. Only through continuously contributing and donating to society can we find true rewards that are far greater than the illusion that greed provides.