

Ms. McKenny

English 101

23 September 2014

*The Secret State of North Korea*

The *Frontline* Documentary, *The Secret State of North Korea*, which aired on January 14, 2014, shows in depth and up close the tyranny, the biased propaganda, and the neglect of the most isolated country in the world, North Korea. In the documentary, several Korean freedom fighters dangerously struggle to get footage of neglected orphans, terrible living conditions, and unbearable hunger out to other world powers like the United States in hope that they will aid them. Kim Jung-Un attempts to hide this side of the country by airing propaganda and not allowing his citizens to see the outside world. An important issue raised by this documentary is that world powers such as the United States, aren't aiding places such as North Korea as of yet. Up until now, aiding a country such as North Korea wouldn't have made sense, but now, knowing the situation, the United States should make it a priority to aid North Korea.

North Korean TV shows the world they are an advanced society with a modern economy, and since they are so isolated to the rest of the world, people just assume that they actually are steady and modern. In reality, things aren't as good as they seem. Three out of four people in North Korea don't have enough food to eat. People scrounge the dumpsters in hope that they find a meal so they don't starve to death. North Korean government, according to the documentary, isn't helping its people at all and leaving them out to fend for themselves. The

United States government needs to diplomatically converse with North Korea that they can either convince North Korea to help their citizens or come to a negotiation somehow and America can give aid themselves.

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Poor Kids

For years, my family has been privileged to aid in several homeless shelters, feeding those who are less fortunate. People of all ages would come in to receive food that the organization provided. I thought that I was just helping my community and gave no thought to what these individuals and families were experiencing outside the shelter until I saw *Poor Kids*, a *PBS Frontline* documentary which examined poverty from the view of a child. The documentary, which aired on November 11, 2012, follows the lives of three children and their families who are living in poverty because of their low income, loss of a job, or the crashing economy. One of the children lives in a very small home with no electricity or running water. Another child takes shelter with their family in the Salvation Army home. The last child lives in an old trailer and collects cans to sell to help her mother with payments. These children have no capability of finding a job and relying on their parents to provide them with the necessities during this time of recession in America. An important issue raised in the documentary, moreover, is whether or not these children should be allowed to remain with their families even though their basic needs are minimally met. Removing children from their homes due to low income of their parents should be a consideration for social workers based on the child's nutrition, hygiene, and overall health.

