Module 2 Assignment 4 and 8

Assignment 4.

Back in September of 2021 I bought a Subaru WRX STI that was already highly modified. The car was very loud. Among my car enthusiast friends it was a good buy. But I soon realized none of the people who relied on me for transportation liked it. They despised it. They didn’t like how loud it was. It was also a stick shift so that eliminated a lot of friends ability to drive it.

The 2nd Self centered decision is when I bought an all electric Chevy Bolt. The limited range and very long charge times in comparison to other electric cars rendered this car only of use for me. But it also meant that I couldn’t drive it to visit my son out of state with out several 2 hour charging sessions. I’m okay with that but no one else I know is. It’s perfect for me , since I only drive 17 miles one way to work and the majority of my driving is local.

Assignment 8

**Identify the Impact of Group Influence**

1. This group has influenced my thinking in the following ways…

For many years I have been influenced from working in the following three areas, Environmentalism, Labor Unions and Domestic Violence. The majority of it being in Environmentalism which is heavily influenced by the Social Justice Community. A common theme in this community is how the mainstream system of Justice traditionally has not been fair. So they have alternatives methods of resolving transgressions that is intended to pursue Justice which is fair to everyone.

2. The following ideas within this group seem incompatible with one another.

Their alternative forms of Justice for Victims within the community is supposed to address the flaws in the mainstream justice system. It is common for Victims of violence to not receive a fair hearing where they get to face their assailant. In many cases they are ignored or the way there isn’t enough direct evidence to hold the assailant accountable. So it is often that predators and perpetrators of violence are not held accountable for their actions.

Their methods for addressing this has been to give more power to a victim. An alleged Victim only has to make a claim and the community would treat the claim seriously. Often just off of a Claim the alleged perpetrator would not be allowed back into organizing spaces. Other organizing spaces in the community would also agree to not let the alleged perpetrator in their spaces. And all someone has to do is say they do not feel safe with a certain person’s presence on the grounds that they are assumed to be a perpetrator of violence and this person is removed.

(Some of this briefly spilled over into the mainstream discourse , where an accusation in itself was proof. Luckily it didn’t hold)

This in my view was addressing an Injustice with another form of Injustice. As a Black American historically our group was victim to many false imprisonments, convictions and executions with out any empirical evidence suggesting we were guilty. A mere accusation was all that was needed. I saw this as being in direct contradiction with being “Just”.

**3. I would now question the following beliefs I “received” from this group …**

The Belief that there is always a need for a completely different system to address flaws in our mainstream system. Sometimes we need a different system, and in some cases the system we have just needs to be reformed.