**Prompt: One’s appearance is the first thing you notices about another. Carefully read the**

**following six sources. Then synthesize information from at least four of the sources and**

**incorporate it into a coherent, well developed argument for your own position on the degree to which society puts an emphasis physical beauty**.

Beauty defines our lives. We look at it. Follow it and strive to be it. Society has

allowed beauty to run through our veins. We need it to survive. Society thus has

developed a dependence on beauty.

I’ve never really been into makeup. My mom had always told me since I was that

young eager middle schooler, “You don’t need makeup. You are beautiful just the way”.

But, prom is right around the corner, and you know what? I want to look nice. So I go on

YouTube to find some beginner makeup tutorials. Immediately, I am overwhelmed.

Bronzer, contours kits, eyeshadow palettes, foundation, concealer all apparently a

necessity if you want to look like a half decent Macey’s model on your special day. To

really get that air brushed finish you need more: lip stain, cheek stain, highlighter. Which

until yesterday I did not realize was something other than a colorful marker to help keep

your notes organized. After my head explodes somewhere near a thousand times, I go

to Sephora’s website. Did you know a simple MAC brush is close to $40? Yes! $40!

How about a sponge to help blend the makeup? $15! I am pretty sure I could go to my

local HEB and buy a sponge for a fourth of that price. Now, I understand. It’s the price of

beauty. It’s the price that we pay to achieve social satisfaction of being beautiful. It’s the

price of “every decision you make having a meaning” (Source A). Society and big

business such as Lancôme and Clinique make us think we need all these things to be

beautiful. In return, they make you pay your income just to receive a tiny 4 oz bottle with

a “special formula” that gives you pimples when you take it off. This entire mess has

made me come to realize that we “should not focus on the superficial and instead

channel our energies developing character and intellect” (Source C). Beauty is simply a

distraction posed by society.

Society has come to the point where beauty is success. At some point we all

evolved to where we can look at someone and know everything about them. You have

long Goldilocks hair well you must have a lovely singing voice. You have a slim tall

physique then you must be a star athlete. Stop laughing because these seemingly

irrelevant comparisons and ignorant conclusions that people make every day. Look at

Susan Boyle. When she stepped on that X Factor stage, Simon Cowell could not stop

his laughter. But, once she opened her mouth and let out her Angel voice, everyone’s

jaw dropped. How could such a beautiful voice come from such a disheveled person?

The truth is we judge people on first glances. We allowed ourselves to be petty. We

disown people who are “irregular and have acne” (Source E). We look at someone who

is overweight and classify them as lazy. We look at someone who is as thin as a stick

and call them anorexic. There is no winning. Society does not allow anyone to be happy

with their own beauty.

It’s not uncommon to go on Twitter and see a tweet that says something to the

fact “If he ain’t over 6 ft then don’t try to talk to me”, or a picture of a guy half naked and

the comment consists of twenty thousand heart eyes Emojis. The simple truth is that

girls generally like men who look like Abercrombie models and men generally like girls

who look like a Victoria's Secret model. But, you know that’s why they are models. They

are paid to to look perfect all the time because that’s how companies sell their products.

They sell their products based off our desires. The problem is that society has

convinced young children that there nearly unattainable body images are the normal.

We live with “the pressure of having to physical impress the opposite sex” (Source C).

Instead of being taught the importance of self love and appreciation, we are taught the

importance of critiquing. Instead of being thankful for all “the past sacrifices that were

made for all of us to be here” (Source D), we complain that our thighs are too big. In the

grand scheme of things, “we all share the same basic desires for happiness and

meaning in our lives” (Source C), so we can not let society tear that away from us. But,

we are society, so the change begins with us.

Beauty dictates society. It runs our thoughts. It controls our actions. However, we

must realize that the more important aspects of life are within