

Big or Small Government

1. Warm-up

Read the text and answer the questions.

Podcaster Michael Malice wrote his book, "The White Pill," as a symbol of hope. Young people have been feeling down about the future, but Malice argues that people in worse situations have achieved greater victories. Born in the Soviet Union, Malice researched how tyrannies can be defeated, like the fall of the Berlin Wall, which was a significant moment. Despite this, some college students still support socialism.

Malice criticizes universities for promoting socialism and ignoring the benefits of capitalism. He believes the media has long supported socialism, even covering up events like the Soviet famine. For instance, the New York Times denied the famine while millions starved. Malice argues that the media and universities brainwash people, but the fall of the Soviet Union shows that resistance is possible.

1. How do you feel about 'big government' programs?
2. Is freedom more important than government support? Why or why not?

2. Video

Watch the video "The White Pill: Big Government Can Be Defeated (Just Ask the Soviet Union)" (from 0:00 to 5:10)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELftaF5ANKg&ab_channel=JohnStossel

3. Grammar

Rewrite using reported speech.

1. Michael said, "The white pill is a symbol of hope."
- Michael said _____ the white pill _____ a symbol of hope.
2. Young people were saying, "I can't believe what we're going through."
- Young people were saying that _____ believe what they _____ going through.



3. Malice said, "People in a far worse position than us won a far greater victory."
- Malice said that people in a far worse position than ____ had ____ a far greater victory.
4. Malice stated, "The most ruthless tyrannies can be toppled."
- Malice stated ____ the most ruthless tyrannies ____ be toppled.
5. President Ronald Reagan said, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!"
-The President urged Mr. Gorbachev ____ tear down that wall.

Rewrite using reported speech.

1. Michael observed, "People were risking their lives to escape into freedom."
Michael observed that _____.
2. Michael said, "Finally, people have wised up to the evil of central planning."
Michael said that _____.
3. The student stated, "Socialism is the way forward."
The student stated that _____.
4. The YouTuber said, "Socialism is moral, just, and common sense."
The YouTuber said that _____.
5. The teacher explained, "Schools black-pill students about capitalism."
The teacher explained that _____.

4. Vocabulary

Complete with correct words from the word bank.

WORD BANK: socialism, tyranny, tyrannies, significant, criticizes, promoting, promotion, benefits, brainwashes, brainwashing, resistance.

As a university student, I am becoming more critical of the education system, which seems to be ____ a socialist agenda. The curriculum promotes ____ by focusing on its supposed ____ and ignoring its historical failures and the ____ it has create. This one-sided approach leaves little room for critical thinking and ____ students into believing that socialism is the only good system. It's worrying that universities, which should encourage open debate, have become places that only echo socialist ideas.

I resist this ____ because I understand history and the ____ consequences of adopting such ideologies. Countries that embraced socialism often ended up with oppressive governments, economic problems, and loss of personal freedoms. The fall of the Berlin Wall is a clear example of the failure of socialist _____. By ignoring these facts, universities fail to provide a balanced education. We must question and challenge the ____ of



socialism to ensure that students are well-informed and able to make thoughtful decisions about their beliefs and values.

5. Pronunciation

Practice pronunciation using the dialogue.

Michael: The fall of the Berlin Wall shows that **tyrannies** can be defeated. Smaller governments are **significant** for more freedom and prosperity.

University Student: Big governments provide essential services and protections that small governments can't. **Socialism** has many **benefits**, including social health and public securities that help everyone.

Michael: But big governments often become oppressive and inefficient. Smaller governments encourage personal responsibility and innovation, which leads to better results. I **criticize** how big governments manipulate resources for their own gain.

University Student: Smaller governments may fail to address inequalities. Larger governments can ensure fair resource distribution and access to basic services, which can promote a more equal society.

Michael: Big governments often **brainwash** citizens, focusing on their power over the well-being of the people. People thrive best with more personal freedom and less government control.

University Student: A mixed approach, where the government provides essential services and encourages personal responsibility, might be best. **Promoting** balanced governance can address both freedom and equality.

Michael: We must be careful not to give too much power to any government. The goal should always be to maximize freedom and encourage **resistance** to oppression.

6. Practice

Write your response or discuss.

1. Do you agree that less government will *a/ways* make things better? Why or why not?
2. Why do you think that socialism seems to lead to tyranny?
3. Which government services do you believe are the most significant?

6. Summary and Review

Podcaster Michael Malice wrote his book, "The White Pill," as a symbol of hope. Young people have been feeling down about the future, but Malice argues that people in worse situations have achieved greater victories. Born in the Soviet Union, Malice researched how tyrannies can be defeated, like the fall of the Berlin Wall, which was a significant moment. Despite this, some college students still support socialism.

Malice criticizes universities for promoting socialism and ignoring the benefits of capitalism. He believes the media has long supported socialism, even covering up events like the Soviet famine. For instance, the New York Times denied the famine while millions starved. Malice argues that the media and universities brainwash people, but the fall of the Soviet Union shows that resistance is possible.

Malice sees hope in the growing skepticism towards corporate journalism and believes figures like Elon Musk could help improve the situation. He argues for reducing government programs and promoting real education.

Indirect (or reported) speech involves relaying what someone else has said without quoting their exact words. Here are five examples:

1. Direct Speech: "I am reading a great book," she said. Indirect Speech: She said that she was reading a great book.
2. Direct Speech: "I'll finish my homework by tomorrow," he promised. Indirect Speech: He promised that he would finish his homework by the next day.
3. Direct Speech: "Do you want to come to the party?" they asked. Indirect Speech: They asked if I wanted to come to the party.
4. Direct Speech: "We have to leave now," the teacher instructed. Indirect Speech: The teacher instructed that they had to leave immediately.
5. Direct Speech: "Why are you late?" she questioned. Indirect Speech: She questioned why I was late.

7. Bonus Practice

Rewrite using reported speech.

1. The student argued, "Your education is brainwashing."
- The student argued that _____.
2. Malice claimed, "The devil, I mean the CIA, convinced people that socialism doesn't work."
- Malice claimed that _____.
3. The professor said, "Communism works in theory."
- The professor said that _____.



4. The journalist reported, "The New York Times covered up the Soviet famine."
 - The journalist reported that _____.
5. Gareth Jones said, "People are starving in the Soviet Union."
 - Gareth Jones said that _____.
6. The New York Times claimed, "There's no famine here."
 - The New York Times claimed that _____.
7. The critic stated, "The Soviet Union is not the worker's paradise that was promised."
 - The critic stated that _____.
8. Malice mentioned, "The Soviet Union eventually fell."
 - Malice mentioned that _____.
9. The interviewer asked, "Which would you rather have in America, socialism or capitalism?"
 - The interviewer asked _____.
10. The journalist said, "The media acts as a propaganda arm."
 - The journalist said that _____.