

Context:

Thrift shopping has become vastly popularised since 2008. Thrift shopping is the act of buying cheap and used items, clothing or accessories from a market, thrift store or a charity store. They donate profits to the less privileged and provide opportunities for people to donate/sell items and to help the environment. Examples of thrift stores include the Salvation Army, Saint Vincent de Pauls, Goodwill, Yesterdays and Lifeline. Many things contribute to the popularisation of thrift shopping - including social media influencers, even songs that promote fashion trends.

Set-up:

We, the negative team, will prove that thrift shopping has made the world a better place and positively influenced many criteria - mainly the environment, sustainability and the economy.

We do not regret - as in, we believe it was/is a beneficial event.

The overwhelming popularisation of thrift shopping has benefited society far more than it has damaged, therefore there is no reason to regret this new trend.

Substantive:

1.1 - Environment

- Upcycling/recycling is extremely beneficial to the environment
 - Since thrift shopping is becoming increasingly more popular, it reduces the amount of clothing waste
 - There is less factory pollution and landfill
 - 'About 90 per cent of the cotton grown for textiles is genetically modified, which means it is heavily reliant on pesticides.'
<https://serc.berkeley.edu/why-thrift-shopping-is-good-for-the-planet-not-just-your-wallet/>
 - This contaminates and acidifies water reservoirs - harming sea life
 - 'The production of the synthetic fabrics releases nitrous oxide, a greenhouse gas that is 310 times stronger than carbon dioxide. By switching to second-hand shopping, the money you spend won't go toward supporting an industry that is characterized by water and air pollution.'
<https://serc.berkeley.edu/why-thrift-shopping-is-good-for-the-planet-not-just-your-wallet/>
 - Through buying second-hand clothing, emissions from factories are reduced which is vital for the future of our planet

1.2 - Equality

- Equality normalises cheap clothing which minimises social division - through the popularisation of thrift shopping, people aren't ashamed to shop cheap
 - 'When it comes to the thrift store, we are made equal, and it is in this environment that fashion becomes a point of inspiration and not a point of difference between us.'
<https://sammydvintage.com/thrift-shopping/thrift-store-shopping/>
- Both ends of the economic spectrum are encouraged to shop at a thrift store - this is a result of influencers showing that even those who aren't impoverished can shop at thrift shops
- Most notably, people will save more money
 - This will boost their living conditions and habits.
- Without thrift shopping, the social and economic divide is large, which can lead to numerous issues:

- 'The basic premise is that inequality creates greater social competition and divisions, which in turn foster increased social anxiety and higher stress'
https://www.google.com/search?safe=strict&rlz=1C1ILPI_en-GBAU782AU782&sxsrf=ALeKk01N_sZB3uYRaAc-MRUR5V04qO_fhq%3A1597989037706&ei=rWA_X77fKpWa4-EPhM6_qA4&q=why+economic+inequality+is+mentally+bad+for+society&og=why+economic+inequality+is+mentally+bad+for+society&gs_lcp=CqZwc3ktYWIQAzIIcCEQFhAdEB46BAqAEEdQ4QtY_RZa2xhoAHABeACAAC4CiAGoFZIBBTItOC4ymAEAoAEBqgEHZ3dzLXdpesABAQ&scient=psy-ab&ved=0ahUKEwj-6cmHzavrAhUVzTqGHQTnD-UQ4dUDCAw&uact=5

2.1 - Unethical production - slaves and child labour

- With so many industries relying on profit, the cheapest labourers possible are sourced
 - Unfortunately, this is often children and the less fortunate, in underdeveloped countries
 - Working conditions are dreadful and inhumane
- Thrifting recycles clothes and therefore reduces the rapid industry demand
- Thrift stores are a fantastic alternative to fast fashion and unethical labour trafficking. You are refusing to directly consume fast fashion, and seeking to reuse the materials already made and available. By making this simple choice, you help to put a stop to labour trafficking by lowering the demand for it in the market.'
<https://www.dressember.org/blog/thrifting>
- The popularisation of thrifting has meant that the companies who use unethical practises and employ cheap labour are not supported
 - Companies need to rethink their choices, as their much-needed customers will return only when the right choices are made (fair trade)

2.2 - Charity and donations

- Most thrift shops were created with the intent of supporting the less fortunate
- E.g The Salvation Army, St Vincent De Paul
 - This benefits the underprivileged sector of our community
 - Cheaper goods, as well as money donated directly from the charity profits, helps many individuals
- 'When you donate your new and gently used items to Goodwill®, we use the revenue generated to fund valuable employment training and job placement services for people in your community.'
<https://www.makingsenseofcents.com/2017/11/should-people-with-high-incomes-be-able-to-shop-at-thrift-stores.html>
 - These charities help the less privileged find work, shelter, clothes and food, improving their state of life
 - 'For example, more people are donating during Covid-19. And people who are struggling can access more clothing - it is a system of helping one another'
<https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2020-04-30/at-overloaded-thrift-shops-coronavirus-is-wreaking-havoc>

Summary:

The most important stakeholders in this debate are clothing companies, factory workers, child labourers, thrift shop owners, customers, the fashion industry, as well as communities in general and social mores. We will prove that we do not regret the overwhelming popularisation of thrifting as it benefits the environment - less waste and pollution, creates equality with the normalisation of 'cheaper' clothing, reduces slave labour by decreasing the need for fast fashion, and aids charity by providing cheap goods and donating funds to those in need.

Pre-emptive Rebuttal:

- Some people might not care for the items they buy so they waste more
 - Buying more and more clothing from fashion stores, for example, contributes to mass production and harms the environment, encourages slave and child labour and overpopulates landfill

- Thrifting is unhygienic
 - Clothes are washed
 - Only a certain standard is sold
 - Thrifting wouldn't be over popularized if people thought it was unhygienic

- Thrifting puts clothing companies out of business
 - Thrifting gives more money to charity
 - Clothing companies simply have to become more ethical if they want customers back - changing the world for the better
 - New research found that retailers who can communicate their ethics clearly are more likely to see consumers spend with them

From <<https://www.forbes.com/sites/annaschaverien/2018/12/12/consumers-do-care-about-retailers-ethics-and-brand-purpose-accenture-research-finds/#4b3ee75616f2>>

Concluding Remarks:

The overwhelming popularisation of thrifting clearly has, in fact, many benefits, showing why we do not regret the overwhelming popularisation of thrifting. It immensely benefits the environment, economy and sustainability of society as consumers are more aware of ethical shopping, charities will acquire more money through thrifting purchases, and people of all financial statuses will be encouraged in society - less judgement and more feeling of inclusion in society.