Davis Reaction

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I had initially skipped this reading because I misread the schedule, but after we talked about it in class, I had to go back to read it! I think this is one of the best readings in the course! I want to go back and read the rest of his book now! I think it is really interesting how our perspectives and goals are changing.

I also agree that we learn about those values from our peers. For example, I learned the MIT ethic of hard work from upper classmen, and now as a senior, pass it on to the freshmen and perspective students that I meet. For example, on the bus ride to and from MIT, I sat next to someone from MIT.

I think our praise of the free markets has been taken too far. Our society is slowly spinning out of balance, heightened by the changing nature of work (which I’ve talked about in the past). The wealthy argue what is in their best interest and there is a large contingent of people who have bought into the free market everyone-is-on-their-own theory that join the wealthy to form the Republican party. Strangely these companies are silent when they seek large subsidies for their operations <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/02/us/how-local-taxpayers-bankroll-corporations.html?hp>

Ultimately, I don’t see considering everything to be a market to be negative. I think in this competitive economy one should think of education as an investment towards finding a job in the future. Perhaps I’ve lived in this world Davis describes for too long, but that is how I consider it. I think the competitiveness helps one focus and be more productive. But at the same time, I value things not purely on money, but like Roark, on aesthetics.