

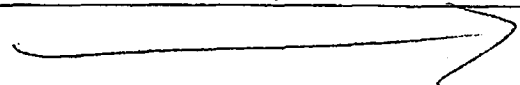
~~The United States of America is founded upon~~ 1 of 5

The United States of America draws its strength from its honored traditions. An American can look virtually anywhere and discover a reminder of why our nation has thrived for so long. From these monuments, both great and small, we are shown our past and our potential. As such, preserving these traditions is vital to the continued greatness of our country. And although it may seem insignificant and mundane, the use of the penny is no exception. From jingling in pockets to rolling off counters, the penny serves as an essential facet of everyday life, as well as a testament to our national roots.

~~The penny is far too important to modern American life to abolish.~~

As both a convenience and a recognized component of modern American life, the penny is far too entrenched to be easily uprooted.

In fact, the effort inherent in the abolition of the penny would be enormous, and simply not worth the "benefits" of so monumental



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a change. In ridding our economy of the penny, the federal government would first need to confront a public greatly in favor of keeping the penny. As indicated by Source E, a poll by the prestigious Harris group, public opinion ~~is~~ shows a strong desire to keep the penny. Thus, anyone who aims to remove the penny must convince ~~at~~ two-thirds the population of these views. This campaign would be costly and logistically near-impossible. There are accordingly significant causes of this widespread support of the penny. As shown in Source A, state economies that depend on penny production for continued prosperity, such as Tennessee's, ~~is~~ would be adversely affected. On a more personal level, pennies serve as a familiarity to shoppers and cashiers, and bank-tellers and customers alike. In the end, ~~pennies are simply~~ the benefits to be reaped by ending the penny are not worth the investment involved.

Beyond mere convenience, the penny has intrinsic national value. Viewing Source G, one can easily see that the penny has



existed in our society since the country's earliest days. ~~It is emblematic of America's thrift,~~

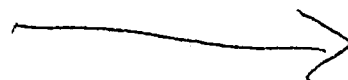
~~It~~ It is an emblem of our thrift, a portrayal of one of our greatest presidents, and a hallmark of our nation's storied past. The great symbols of our nation—the Washington Monument, the White House, Mount Rushmore—are carefully guarded and watched over. Great emphasis is placed on their preservation, for we see the value in honoring America's relics. Should the penny be treated any differently?

Ubiquitous and ordinary as it may seem, the penny is just as intrinsically valuable as all other sources of national pride.

Indeed, as documented in Source F, the federal government has already done well to secure the survival of the penny's symbolic worth by renewing the images of Lincoln.

So crucial is the penny as a mark of our ~~history~~ national attribute of economy and a portrait of our heritage that to ban it would be to ban a feature of American life.

The attack on the penny's use is led by those who overwhelmingly claim that the one-cent



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coin is useless, and worthy only of being phased out as soon as possible. Source C details these complaints: that the penny is economically unsound, that it is ignored by the population, that the rest of the world has already passed us by in banning low-denomination coins. Careful examination, such as that made in Source D of these arguments and the support behind them reveals the flaws of this reasoning. In store windows and ~~on~~ on price signs throughout the country, the fact that the penny is still "important to our pricing system" is made evident. Examination of the statistics that Americans largely push pennies aside ~~is~~ ~~to~~ reveals that only 5.6% of all pennies disappear. And as for keeping up with the rest of the world? To ~~at~~ rid ourselves of the penny would be change for the sake of change. We need not conform to this "trend", especially when it does not exist in Great Britain, Japan, and Germany.

Simply put, the penny is too valuable economically and historically to be banned. State economies

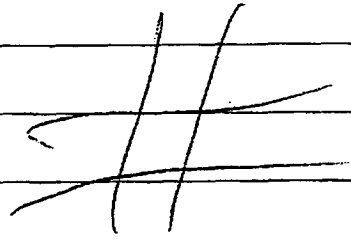


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depend on it. Our past is preserved by it,
And our traditions are honored by it. Has
anyone ever called by destroying the
"outdated" Lincoln Memorial? Similarly, the
penny should be preserved and honored in our
economy and society.



Through my own personal experience in the retail industry, I understand the frustration that occurs while waiting for a customer who says "Wait, I have pennies to get rid of." This frustration then spreads to the rest of the customers waiting in line, creating tensions that may ~~even~~ lead to angry customer arguments that could have been avoided. ~~So~~ So because of that little penny mishap, everyone who was there to witness it leaves the store and spends the rest of the day annoyed and in a bad mood, proving pennies "are literally more trouble than they are worth" (Safire). One cent is just not a big enough value ~~to~~ to turn shoppers and cashiers hostile towards one another.

It seems the penny is kept around today for more sentimental reasons than anything else. Abraham Lincoln's ~~profile~~ profile on the head of the penny reminds us daily of our history and how far the country has come. Or does it. In my experience, I have never (except when asked) considered the penny to be anything more than a piece



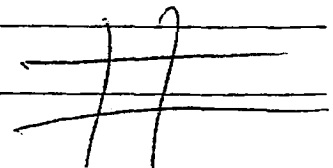
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of metal passing off as currency. The sentimental value of the penny comes from it becoming the first coin that "depicted a real historical figure" (Press release) and therefore makes our country hesitant to get rid of it.

Through the years, the value of American currency has ~~been~~ decreased, not allowing as much to be bought for the same amount of money. Pennies used to hold a higher value themselves, but as William Safire says "you can't buy anything with a penny anymore," the power of a penny just isn't what it used to be. By ~~abolishing~~ abolishing pennies, ~~each~~ there is the possibility of saving "4 hours per person a year" (Kahn) where normally that time would have been spent either digging for pennies, or watching other people dig for pennies. All this time saved will allow for more retail transactions to occur, which pushes more money into our economy, which might possibly help us out of our current ~~is~~ economic recession just a little bit faster. Stop the jingling!



"Find a penny, Pick it up, all through the day you'll have good luck." Right? The small one-cent piece is a well shown example of Americas progress as a nation. Although this is true, has our economy advanced to far to keep the penny in circulation? Source B states that every transaction wastes 2 to 2.5 seconds of the day, due to the penny, adding to 40 seconds a day wasted per person. It continues to state that if ~~each~~ ~~at~~ at \$15 an hour, each person is losing \$60 a year, costing the nation over \$15 billion a year. America is already trillions of dollars in debt, so how can we afford this much wasted time? We can't.

The Penny has been good to us throughout the years, but in today's society it has become useless. Source C states that there is no longer anything that can be bought by a penny. No "penny-candy" vending machines no longer accept pennies, for now they are only used to pay ~~the~~ the tax on items, and to throw in to wishing wells. Pennies are constantly being lost by ~~babes~~ owners, and finding homes in sewers, subway stations, and water fountains.



Question 1

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Based on how often we are throwing away pennies, we can only imagine the amount of money we are throwing away per year.

Although America loves the penny, for it symbolizes accomplishment, wealth, and luck, it is time we rid America of this useless coin. It is true that Lincoln would be proud to hear of President Bush's advancement to the penny (source F), He too would be sad to hear of how much time and ~~money~~ money this "pesky little bit of coinage." (source C).

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