Pessimism versus Realism

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Pessimism versus Realism

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According to Webster’s dictionary a pessimist (PES-uh-mist – noun) is

“a person who habitually sees or anticipates the worst or is
disposed to be gloomy” or “an adherent of the doctrine of
pessimism”.

We see pessimism as something negative, something that interferes with
the success of the future or the attitudes of others. However, sometimes I
think that when it comes to politics, pessimist is synonymous to realism.
Realist (ree-uh-list), noun, “a person who tends to view or represent
things as they really are”.

From an outside perspective, these two words may not seem anything
alike. Yet in the current state of our society, looking inwardly at the
nation’s issues, these two words relate more than they differ. So
pessimist? Maybe, but I think that I look at the current state of our nation
as well as the next four years of our nation as something that is also very
real. I look at the reality of our nation as something that is absolutely
terrifying.

Four years ago, our country took a huge step. We made history and,
historically, this was a huge milestone for The United States of America.
We elected America’s first black president. Every presidency in the history
of our country has had its struggles and its successes. President Obama
was thrown into a pit of a failing U.S. economy, low employment and
criticism of daily worldwide issues. While I would like to say that the next
four years will shape this country immensely I believe that, realistically,
no matter who is put in office we have so much work to put in as a country
in order for anything to improve.

We see four years as such a long time, when, realistically, four years
will never be sufficient to make a difference in a country requiring so
much attention. I understand that this view may be pessimistic, but I
challenge American’s to look at the big picture. Does one person have the
ability to impact four years of time? Truly, I don't know. I think that this
country’s shape does not rely on a Republican or Democrat but a massive
movement of individuals willing to compromise and put themselves
second for the bettering of our country.