Bryce Day
Sara Price Humanities 11
Timed Writing

Although child labor was an integral part of 19th and early 20th century economy, it was not worth it to have children suffer through terrible injuries and extremely low wages.

The industrial revolution most likely would've had a different ending if child labor was not the standard for a time. Kids were small, and could get into much tighter places than adults within factories and mines and the like. Many families would most likely not have had any way to live without sending their children out to work at a young age. It was necessary to bring in whatever income they could afford the basics of living.

This however all came at the cost of child safety.. Kids would end up cutting themselves and often losing fingers inside factories and in the seafood industry.[1,2] Children worked long days, which didn't allow for much time after all was said and done. Most never even got a chance at education, as they were far too busy working to indulge themselves in schooling.

Some jobs were more dangerous than others, especially for children. The coal mines are a good example of such a place. Jagged and heavy rocks would mean the workers would get their hands crushed and mangled, disallowing them to work and making their lives all that much harder. Some would get caught by chutes and found much later, the corpses covered in soot and dust. Others, the machinery would get to them and ravish them towards and early death.[3]

No job was truly safe for children during the industrial revolution, but in the early 1900s child labor laws started to be put into place. Nowadays, kids don't have to suffer through those kinds of hardships, and education is a requirement for most jobs. America has improved since industrial times, and it shows in the way that the workforce doesn't have 12 year-olds working incredibly dangerous jobs.

[1]: Lewis Hine Photographs
[2]: Mother Jones, "March of the Mill Children"
[3]: John Spargo, from The Bitter Cry of the Children