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### Second Chance

As the human kind matures in the world we always try to find ways to improve or forget the past; letting our mistakes teach us how to make the right choices. Also forgiving the individuals that you have held a grudge against and showing them respect. Societal forgetting has been deteriorating from our generation due to all types of social networks and technology. In the article, "The Importance of 'Societal Forgetting'" by Jeffrey Rosen I am able to acknowledge the value of forgetting the past and getting a more in depth view of not only his understanding of the topic, but mine as well which will help me learn from what has happened.

The value of the past is unknown to many except for historians of course, but as individuals we are not looking that far back. We have come to remember mistakes just by looking on our social network page. The value of societal forgetting has developed from what we believed in the past, that with time we forget because no records were made. Unfortunately social networks have made it a lost cause. Rosen states that that the concept of societal forgetting gives individuals the ability to start from a new slate and are therefore able to forget past mistakes. I find it valuable because forgetting your past mistakes makes it easier for others to get to know you the way that you have been trying to get people to know you. That is the reason why I decided to come to University of California, Merced in the hopes of a fresh start, yet to due to social networks the past is at the click of a button and in seconds that I meet someone new they would have the chance to see what I have done. I know that I have made

mistakes but those mistakes are still out there, and social networks have a way of enhancing certain things we do not want others to know, but in the end some things do come out; secrets, emotions, or just comments we never want anyone to hear. I know that has happened to me, but when I arrived here I just wanted to be myself and not be judged by others. For societal forgetting can only enrich the new image of myself, but not the past.

While reading the article, Jeffrey Rosen's view on "societal forgetting" Rosen gives an in depth explanation of the concept of societal forgetting. Rosen believes that it is useful because without technology our society had no vivid memory of our mistakes recorded anywhere, therefore making it possible for the mistakes to be forgotten. Also without forgetting there is now way anyone can forgive an individual for his or her sin. "Societal forgetting' can be used in religious context as well, for when Jesus was nailed to the cross he was taking all of our sins away with him as he was dying, which allowed his followers to start fresh. For God erases all sins when we recognize them when they are done, and ask for forgiveness.

For the ability to acknowledge the value of societal forgetting, a more in dept view of "societal forgetting" in the article "The Importance of 'Societal Forgetting'" written by Jeffrey Rosen gave me the understanding of the necessity of why it can help everyday individuals to improve their lives and makes it easier for others to move on. For a second chance does not come around very often, but the only thing keeping us away from it is the information others get through different resources. We make improvements in our life and we want people to see the improved part of us when we move to different places or when we apply for jobs. The only thing that is holding us back are social networks that record our mistakes that are hard to be erased.