Kaitlin O’Hagan

Professor Little

Montserrat- Math Across Cultures

22 February 2011

Collapse Intro Draft

Throughout history, there have been societies that chose to fail. The Maya, Easter Islanders, and Polynesian peoples, whose economies, government, and to an extent, cultures, ceased to exist, declined because of the decisions they made and the priorities they chose. But are we, as a country or world society, subject to make those same poor choices? L.P. Hartley once said that “the past is a foreign country; they do things differently there.” In his book, *Collapse,* Jared Diamond disagrees with this assertion, stating that collapses are already occurring in Third World countries, and that it is only a question now of when and if similar collapses will cause the downfall of First World nations. However, though genocide and collapse of authority in those Third World nations can surely affect the rest of the world through globalization, we have technology and knowledge about sustainability that is being employed to prevent the environmental factors that ultimately lead to a collapse, making it unlikely.