

## Poor Conditions of Casual Labor

## I. Introduction

A. Poor working conditions were so predominant in the industrial revolution which was marked by the high demand for labor due to the highly upcoming factories and businesses.

B. Thesis statement: (You must write a new one)

## II. Body

A. "We stand in the rain in a long line waiting at Ford Highland Park. For work" (Phillip 1992).

1. Ford Highland Park was the original site for the Ford Motor company where vehicle assembly was carried out.
2. It was a common practice for unskilled laborers to gather every morning and wait for the managers to take in the laborers they needed.
3. Since the Ford Motor Company was large and took in many people every day, several people in search of a daily wage flocked the premise at the Highland Park, and this necessitated that people queue.
4. The company would then take its regular workforce on the first come basis, and the rest of the group that would not be lucky would have to go back home.
5. That explains the long waiting on the line the poet speaks about.

B. "...you know what work is, although you may not do it" (Phillip 1992).

1. The poet acknowledges the fact that not everyone can be able to handle the kind of work out there.
2. This depicts the conditions under which unskilled laborers worked in. In most cases, it was long hours of hard labor which were then rewarded with a meager daily wage.
3. There was a high employee turnover at Ford Motor Company due to these poor work and wage policies, and so many people gave up or looked for better things to do.
4. It was not a job anyone could do; it was harsh starting with long waits on a line outside in the chilly rainy mornings followed by hard industrial work that lasted over eight hours.

C. "You rub your glasses with your fingers, and of course it's someone else's brother, narrower across the shoulders than yours but with the same sad slouch, the grin that does not hide the stubbornness, the sad refusal to give in to rain, to the hours of wasted waiting, to the knowledge that somewhere ahead a man is waiting who will say, "No, we're not hiring today," for any reason he wants" (Phillip 1992).

1. The persona gets emotional at the thought of his brother.
2. The looks on the people's faces are the same; they all defy the odds against them and keep hoping that they will find a slot on the daily intake.
3. They are not happy, and they are not doing the work because they want, but it is something they have to do which explains their living conditions.

4. They belong to the low class where they have to put up with all the harsh conditions and cruel employers who will find any reason to deny them work.
  5. The thought of his brother means they rarely have time together as they have to work different jobs and in between they try to rest or do other activities hence they are always apart.
- D. “You’ve never done something so simple, so obvious... just because you don’t know what work is” (Phillip 1992).
1. The persona again acknowledges that he has never shown any form of affection to his brother.
  2. He attributes this to the fact that he knows no work. He does not appreciate what his brother has been doing until this point; it hits him that his brother has been through much and that he works hard at the factory at night and study during the day.
  3. It would mean he is younger than his brother and still has not experienced as much as his brother.
  4. Casual labor separates them and therefore fails to appreciate and show each other affection.

### III. Conclusion

- A. Poor working conditions can be described as a preserve for those who lived within the poverty line which was largely made up of the casual laborers in the industrial revolution.
- B. They had no better options than to choose between lack and the little available earning from the hard working conditions as Phillip puts it.
- C. Earning for their families was a painful journey.