**TWO VIEWS OF AMERICA IN THE 1950s**

*For most Americans the years following World War II were years of prosperity and dramatic change. The war had brought to an end the Great Depression of the 1930s as industry raced to meet the manufacturing needs of war, bringing employment to almost anyone who wanted it. When the war ended in 1945, the United States found itself a great world power with a healthy economy. This economic boom continued in the 1950s. In the midst of all this economic growth, Americans took a new look at their value system. Never before had Americans had so many outlets for their leisure time. The home and all that went with it took on new meaning. Most Americans thought they never had it so good.*

***SOURCE: U.S. News and World Report: “10 Amazing Years, 1947 – 1957; A Decade of Miracles”***

1. List at least 10 examples of how the American society was advancing following World War II

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2. Select 2 of these examples and explain why each positively affected American society.

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***SOURCE: “The Affluent Society” by John Kenneth Galbraith***

3. Compare and Contrast the author’s idea of “Private Wants” and “Public Desires”

4. List and explain 2 examples of the drawbacks pointed out by Galbraith.

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