Background Information

Author: Barbara Ehrenreich

Career: Journalist

Background Information

- "Harper's Magazine, the oldest general interest monthly in America, explores the issues that drive our national conversation... With its emphasis on fine writing and original thought, Harper's Magazine provides readers with a unique perspective on politics, society, the environment, and culture.

- The essays, fiction, and reporting in the magazine's pages come from promising new voices as well as some of the most distinguished names in American letters. Barbara Ehrenreich".
  (http://harpers.org/harpers/about)

Background Information

- Education: Ph.D. in Biology.

- Considers this project as a scientific experiment:
  - She is trying to learn if she can match her income to her expenses.
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- Ehrenreich will follow these guidelines:
  - She will not depend on any skills she gained for her schooling and journalism work.
  - She will take the job with the highest pay and do her best to keep the job.
  - She will take the cheapest housing she can find keeping in mind her safety and privacy.

- In her "experiment" she presented herself as:
  - A now-single homemaker reentering the workforce after many years.
  - With three years of education at her real-life college.

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- She sets limits on what she is willing to handle:
  - She will not go without a car
  - She will not be homeless
  - She will not go hungry.

- Ehrenreich says in the Introduction that she will never truly know what it is like to be impoverished.
- She makes it clear that she is only trying to learn if she can match her income to her expenses.

Serving in Florida: Key West