

March 15, 2019
Government of Brazil
Mr. Jair Bolsonaro
Brasilia, Federative Republic of Brazil, 70040

Dear Mr. Bolsonaro,

I am writing to you to discuss the economic impact Carnival is having on Brazil. Every year Carnival is impacting Brazil in a negative way, the funding it takes to produce this festival is putting the economy in crisis.

In 2017 1.1 million tourists came to Carnival and they had an economic impact of \$912 million. Every samba school is getting its budget slashed in half from \$640,000(2 million reals) to \$320,000(1 million reals). That started a huge protest lead by the kids in the samba school to stop this from happening, but the mayor says it is for the best because they are under budgetary restriction. In 2016 towns and cities were forced to not to do Carnival this year because they were having the worst recession since the 1930s. Even though not doing Carnival helped millions out of poverty it also paved the way for the current crisis leaving the economy vulnerable. It's also not just the economy that it hurting, in 2017 one of the floats crashed and injured 20 people.

Carnival is the highlight of the year for anyone and everyone in Brazil, but maybe it is a little much. What if it was drawn down a scale or two. A lot of fights start during the parades because of the tight spaces, so if so many people didn't come then there would be less fighting and fewer people would get arrested. Carnival is supposed to be a fun time, but instead its problematic for anyone who wants to go, you need to stay with your group all the time because you will lose them like that *snap*. The tight spaces also don't allow women to wear skirts or to be alone because men become sexually. So the main people is that there are to many people coming to Rio or some other city, it started off as something that only Brazilians went to and then they made it into this big deal to bring in tourists.

In conclusion Carnival needs to go back to its roots, if the economy wants to come out of fault then they need to stop doing it to bring in tourists and do it for the reason it was made for. To celebrate Lent, when they go back to doing this for them then they may not be as rich as they are now. That might not be the first thing the government wants, but if they are not rich in money they will be rich in love and community. I know I am only a tenth grader, but my family lives in Belo Horizonte and they tell me how stressful this festival is. Also how they are scared bringing my baby cousins to it because they don't trust their fellow brazilians.

Sincerely,

Giovanna N. Smith

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10 grader

Central York High School