Researching and Changing the World

**1st Body Paragraph EXAMPLE:**

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 American Samoa is a small island with a big heart and a ton of spirit. In the South Pacific Ocean, this territory of the United States of America, is a rugged, tropical island, and it sits pretty, smack down in the middle of Hawaii and New Zealand. It’s a hot and rainy Polynesian isle that’s part of the Samoan islands chain that makes up Western Samoa and other tiny islands. “At about seventy-six square miles, it’s filled with jungles, minute villages, mountains, and rocky shorelines” (“Insular Area Summary for American Samoa”). There’s about 56,000 Samoans residing on the island, according to the 2010 census. It reminds many people of Hawaii and Fiji. The native people have been on the land for thousands of years, however European missionaries began to colonize and transform the island since the 18th century. Given that, Samoans are devoutly Christian in their religious beliefs and church is a huge part of their lives (Watson). In 1899, the biggest Eastern island of the Samoan chain became a territory of America, officially becoming American Samoa, mostly because the island was the perfect refueling station for naval fleets. American Samoa had an integral part in WWI and WWII. Their government is very similar to America’s, with a democracy and governor; however their matai system of village chiefs is still practiced. American Samoa is a sort of conglomerate of the old and new. The people of American Samoa, who mostly speak Samoan, are happy, joyful people who love art, singing, dancing, and sports. Their daily lives are focused on their families and God; they often go to church, they take care of their homes, yards, and families every day, cook bounties of food, sing and dance to their ukuleles, and play rugby with friends in their village. Samoans are most famous for their love of American football. Many young men devote themselves to the sport and end up earning scholarships to play for big university and NFL teams. With everything they do, they go big. American Samoa is filled with passionate, proud people. Nevertheless, the island is experiencing a dire situation.