# Social Justice Writing Assignments: How English 100 Is Connected to Sociology 100

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Goals</th>
<th>Research</th>
<th>Connections to SOC 100</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **1. Preliminary: Your culture**  
Describe a culture or subculture you consider yourself a member of. | You only need to read the assignment sheet—carefully—for this one. | This is a non-graded essay designed to help me see what skills you are starting the course with. The only goal for this is to do your best with what you already know. | This is based on your own knowledge—you will have to think about it, but you won’t have time to do any special research | Social groups and cultures are the main subject of sociology throughout the semester. |
| **2. Desire, Dollars, Debt**  
Why has materialism increased?  
What can/should we do about consumerism, if anything? | Handouts by Schor and others on consumer spending, debt, and shopping, *Pocket Handbook* on MLA parenthetical citations, and readings in *Sociology in Our Times* | Paragraph focus (PIE)  
Relate personal experience to ideas in readings  
Thesis statements  
Sentence focus and concision | Quoting and citing articles and relating these to your experience and ideas | Chapter 1 of Kendall’s book focuses on how different social theories explain overspending and credit cards |
| **3. Mini-ethnography of a social group**  
How much of our behavior is based on culture and how much are we aware of this? What can we learn about social groups by observing them? | Macelod, “The Hallway Hangers and the Brothers”  
Anderson “Group and Status On The Corner” and student papers *Pocket Handbook* on semicolons and commas | Continued emphasis on thesis statements and paragraph focus, paragraph transitions, plus integrating original research  
Sentence level: Sentence fluency, subordinators, noun phrase appositives | Integrating and analyzing observations and interviews | Chapters 3, 4, and 5 of Kendall’s book discuss culture, socialization, and social interaction. All of these will help you write your ethnography |
| **4. Midterm on The Bluest Eye** | Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*, plus handouts on the book, symbols, metaphors, character analysis, plot | Writing under pressure: Organizing when you don’t have time  
Sentence level: Verbal phrases | Analyzing literature—how to discuss characters, plot, language, metaphors and other literary devices | You will be studying socialization, racism, and status—all of which are relevant to *The Bluest Eye* |
| **5. Research paper on a social problem, part one**  
Review of relevant literature: What causes a particular social problem? | You will be doing your own research at the CSM library for this; the requirement is four articles; you will also need the *Pocket Handbook* | Creating an MLA works cited page  
Organizing a larger paper using headings and subheadings | Library research using multiple sources | You will be discussing social problems and possible solutions throughout the semester; Kendall’s book can help you choose a problem |
### Social Justice Writing Assignments: How English 100 Is Connected to Sociology 100

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6. Research paper on a social problem, part two: Thesis and development. How might society solve or alleviate the problem you discussed in part one?</th>
<th>As with essay 5, you will collect your own sources through the library, and will need to use the Pocket Handbook</th>
<th>Continuation of goals from part one (essay five)</th>
<th>Developing library research by responding to sources with your own ideas</th>
<th>As with essay 5, you will be discussing social problems and solutions throughout the semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7. Reflection on a volunteer experience How are people in the local community attempting to solve or alleviate the social problem discussed in your research?</td>
<td>Selections from Coles’ <em>The Call of Service</em>, Loeb’s <em>Soul of a Citizen</em>, and handouts from <em>CQ Researcher</em>.</td>
<td>Describing and reflecting on an experience in “the real world.”</td>
<td>One three hour volunteer experience at a community agency dealing with the social problem discussed in your research</td>
<td>Dr. Mathur frequently offers volunteer projects for extra credit; you may be able to combine both projects.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>