

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

| Topic | Reading | Goals | Research | Connections to SOC 100 |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| 1. Preliminary: Your culture <i>Describe a culture or subculture you consider yourself a member of.</i> | 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 <i>Why has materialism increased?</i> <i>What can/should we do about consumerism, if anything?</i> | Handouts by Schor and others on consumer spending, debt, and shopping, <i>Pocket Handbook</i> on MLA parenthetical citations, and readings in <i>Sociology in Our Times</i> | 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 <i>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?</i> | Macelod, "The Hallway Hangers and the Brothers" Anderson "Group and Status On The Corner" and student papers <i>Pocket Handbook</i> 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 <i>The Bluest Eye</i> | Morrison, <i>The Bluest Eye</i> , 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 <i>The Bluest Eye</i> |
| 5. Research paper on a social problem, part one: Review of relevant literature: <i>What causes a particular social problem?</i> | You will be doing your own research at the CSM library for this; the requirement is <i>four articles</i> ; you will also need the <i>Pocket Handbook</i> | 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

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