

10 LC: Research Narrative telling a Story of Social Injustice

Overview: You will be combining research and an issue of social injustice to create a narrative of an individual impacted by this problem. You will develop a compelling narrative about this social injustice. **This research paper is to be written in first person and approached from the perspective of the character, real or imagined, recalling the events in the past tense.** You will research the information about this injustice and embed it into the narrative using a variety of credible, appropriate sources. Your evidence and research will be embedded into the narrative with in-text citations. MLA format still applies.

Requirements:

- 4-5 pages
- MLA format
- Submit Research proposal
- Submit Annotated bibliography with 5 sources
- Works cited page
- Clear structure and organization in the narrative
- 5 Direct quotes with in-text citations and MLA formatting
- Written in first person narrative format
- Reference at least 15 facts and important details from research
- Two elements of writing modeled from class mentor texts. →
- Evidence of revision (rearrange, substitute, add, take out) at the surface and deeper levels

Example Mentor Text Models:

- I was an expert _____. + Examples + Anecdote (*The Glass Castle* – “Brian and I were expert foragers...”)
- Paragraph with parallel sentence structure to add description & examples (“Shame” – “Pregnant with...”)
- Appositive phrases
- Short sentences or short paragraphs for emphasis (“Indian Education” and “Shame”)
- Irony (*The Glass Castle*, “Champion of the World”, and “Indian Education”)
- Sensory description (*The Glass Castle*)
- Minute details (*The Glass Castle*)
- Authentic Dialogue to illuminate the theme or character’s emotions (“Shame” and *The Glass Castle*)
- Strong verbs that act as figurative language (*The Glass Castle* – “Then the flames leaped up, reaching my face.”)

Topic: The topic of the paper is up to you. You must revise as directed. Keep all drafts to show evidence of change throughout the writing process. Review the list of possible topics on the back.

Standards:

Consult and cite a variety of **credible**, appropriate sources; Develop a compelling narrative (story) about the social injustice; Provide evidence (ex. quotes, examples, cited paraphrases) that develops your narrative; Cite information that is not “common knowledge”

Sample Topics and Narrators

Social Injustice	Narrator
Inequitable Health Care for those Living in Poverty	Mother of a son who died of an asthma attack
Religious Persecution	Father of a reporter killed by ISIS militants
Violence against women on college campuses	Roommate of a college student who was sexually assaulted

Choosing a narrator (persona):

1. What is the narrator’s life situation? (Age, Marital status, family members, occupation, income, etc)
2. What are the narrator’s views about this subject?
3. How has this injustice impacted the narrator?
4. Who/What are the details about this injustice?
5. What feelings does the narrator harbor about this injustice?
6. What does the narrator think should happen in the future?

What is Social Justice? --Matthew Robinson, PhD

Social justice is defined as "... promoting a just society by challenging injustice and valuing diversity." It exists when "all people share a common humanity and therefore have a right to equitable treatment, support for their human rights, and a fair allocation of community resources." In conditions of social justice, people are "not discriminated against, nor is their welfare and well-being constrained on the basis of gender, sexuality, religion, political affiliations, age, race, belief, disability, location, social class, or socioeconomic circumstances." (Toowoomba Catholic Education, 2006).

Social justice is generally equated with the notion of equality or equal opportunity in society. Although equality is undeniably part of social justice, the meaning of social justice is actually much broader (Scherlen and Robinson, 2008). Further, "equal opportunity" and similar phrases such as "personal responsibility" have been used to diminish the prospective for realizing social justice by justifying enormous inequalities in modern society (Berry, 2005).

- Access to adequate healthcare
- Access to education: minority groups, the poor, refugees, migrant workers, and others
- Access to food, clean water and shelter: a matter of justice
- Access to healthy food and nutrition
- Challenges of terrorism torture and unlawful detention
- Children with disabilities
- Corporal punishment
- Crime victims
- Crimes against women
- Discrimination against girls
- Domestic violence
- Equal pay for equal work
- Exploitation of children: child labor; child soldiers
- Fair wages
- Freedom of the press
- Gender equity: equal pay for equal work
- Genocide, ethnic cleansing: Holocaust; Armenia; Cambodia; Rwanda; Kosovo; Darfur
- Government censorship
- Hate speech
- Homelessness
- Human trafficking
- Marginalization of the poor
- Medical experimentation
- Minority rights (women, workers, racial/ethnic groups, the elderly, children, LGBTs, the disabled, the poor, immigrants)
- Persecution on account of political opinion or social group
- Police powers and human rights
- Poverty and inequality
- Prisoners' rights
- Racial profiling
- Right to free and equal education
- Rights of the disabled and the mentally ill