

COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM

“What is an individual’s responsibility to his or her community?”

This essential question has threaded itself through our work in Contemporary Studies. This semester each student selected a social injustice topic and researched the issue, wrote a paper, performed service work, constructed a tri-fold, created a brochure, and helped host an event to inform and persuade the public to social action. Some students participated in the creation of Public Service Announcements and short-format films as part of the hosted event. As students completed each phase of the work, their understanding of social justice hopefully deepened and became more complex.

Additionally, as students shared their work with each other, the intended effect was that each student became exposed not to one, but to eleven social injustice issues. Therefore, student awareness increased substantially on the subject of social justice through sharing each other’s work throughout the semester.

For your **final exam** you will respond to the essential question (above) in a *persuasive essay* where you: (1) establish a thesis statement/position, (2) provide anecdotal evidence* from your work throughout the semester to support your position, (3) provide anecdotal evidence from a peer’s work on a social injustice topic to support your position, and (4) detail what YOU plan to do in response to your understanding of social responsibility to your community and what others should do, too.

*It should go without saying that in providing anecdotal evidence, one should discuss a **minimum of 3-4 evidences** (i.e., research paper, service experience, service agency’s literature, etc.).

Write deliberately and thoughtfully. Start by prewriting a strategy (brainstorm, web, outline, etc.) for 10-15 minutes. Then, write your essay (1 hour). Be sure that each body paragraph informs (with evidence) and analyzes the evidence as it relates to your thesis statement (body paragraph = Powerful Paragraph). When you are done, re-read over your work and check for quality and effectiveness (10 minutes).

If you are writing this paper by hand, then your writing must be legible and should be double spaced.

Turn in all prewriting/drafts with your final draft stapled to the front.