

## TERM PAPER: SOCIAL PROBLEMS 1

DUE:

MARKS: Part A: 25

Part B: 15

Total : 40

This assignment is designed to allow you to:

1. Study in depth a social problem of interest
2. Develop your skills in academic library and database research
3. Develop your skills in college-level writing

ASSIGNMENT:

Over the course of the semester you will research and write about a social problem of your choice related to poverty. The paper has two sections ( Part A and Part B)

### PART A ( choose ONE of six options)

OPTION 1: Write a 7-9 page term paper on a social problem of your choice. Use A.P.A style. Specific outline will be given in class.

OPTION 2: You are doing your first stage next semester in a community organization that works with people who live with the social problem you have chosen to write about. Your supervisor asks you to interview

people with that problem to find out how their agency can better serve them and meet their needs. Research your social problem by looking at the recent literature to find out what programs, services exist and what issues pertain to your topic. (Appendix A will give requirements) You may also collect original data; for example interviewing someone who is associated with your social problem (ie. a sufferer, a family member, a worker in a community organization, etc..)

OPTION 3: You will become the expert about your social problem among your peers this semester.

Create a digital 'class' in which you teach your peers about the social problem you have researched. Cover the nature of the social problem, its history, its programs and services serving people with it. Imagine that some of your peers are interested and want to learn more about this social problem. Others believe that those people with your social problem are to blame and should not be helped. Convince them otherwise.

OPTION 4: Choose a social problem that you have personal experience with. For example, one that either you or someone you know has direct experience with it. Write a narrative (a story) about your relationship to this social problem. When did it start, how did it effect you or someone you know What did you (they) learn, how did they handle it etc. Find five or six sources related to this social problem, and speak to this research – does your own experience back its

conclusions? Refute them? Explore how your personal knowledge will help your future clients struggling with the same social problem and how you would change things for them if you could.

Option 5: Identify an ethical dilemma associated with your social problems: eg. prostitution should/ should not be legalized. Research BOTH sides of the dilemma: (minimum of three articles for EACH side). Write two mini-papers: one arguing in favor (FOR ) and one arguing the other side (AGAINST).

OPTION 6: Use video and music to create a Public Service Announcement warning people of the dangers of the social problem you have picked (eg. alcohol, violence in dating, untreated mental illness etc.) research your topic and write a 3-4 page paper highlighting what societal attitudes are towards your problem and who is at risk from its harmful effects.

**PART B: THIS SECTION OF THE PAPER IS MANDATORY FOR EVERYONE AND IS DUE ONE WEEK AFTER PART A**

Write a letter to a person who is affected by the social problem you have chosen to research. It can be an individual, a family member, a worker in an agency or a governmental department providing funds to help alleviate the problem. In your letter summarize what you have learned about this social problem through

your research and how you have been affected by what you read. Ask any questions you may have, in order to better understand and empathize with those living with this social problem. Do you have ideas of how to change things in society? Write from your heart as well as your head.

Be prepared to discuss the contents in class and to brainstorm with your peers who might benefit from receiving such a letter.