Coach McAuley

# English 2 Honors Spring 2020 Social Issue Paper

Purpose: Research a social issue that plagues current American society (history, extent/depth of the controversy/immediate concerns, and repercussions/impact/effect), propose solutions to this problem based on your research, and persuade your reader to act. General examples: distributive injustice, gender inequality, teens in prison, cyberbullying, student debt & college tuition, the technological divide, educational funding, etc. **Pick a topic that is personally interesting to you!** See posted CQ Researcher Topics – 8 pages of current, controversial topics!

# Steps to Success:

* + 1. Pick a topic & have it approved
    2. Write a topic proposal with working thesis
    3. Receive thesis approval
    4. Create a works cited page
    5. Write a rough draft
    6. Peer-Edit
    7. Self-Edit
    8. Compose final essay
* **Topic Focus**: Your topic focus needs to be specific! If it is too broad you will have a hard time proposing realistic solutions and persuading people to act on your solutions.
* **Topic Selection**: This is done on a first come, first served basis! You can start signing up IN PERSON Monday**,** 2**/10**; all **topics due** Thursday**,** 2**/1**3**!**  Note: No two people in the same class can have the same stance (may have same issue – pro & con).
* **Topic Proposal:** See instructions on page 2/back. **Due: Friday, 2/14 to go4ecu@gmail.com**
* **Thesis:** Approvals begin **on Friday, 2/14 in class.** Your thesis must contain the topic/problem, comment/why the problem is so bad, and the Big Picture Solution (all 3 must be included & contain effective diction & syntax!).
* **Required Sources:** you need a minimum of **5 sources. One of your sources must be a scholarly journal. You may use J-stor or credible research .com**(to access jstor, go to jstor.org user name gulfbreeze password dolphins).
* **Required in-text citations/parenthetical documentation (PD) MLA format– you must have 2 in-text citations per body paragraph**; therefore, you will have a minimum of 6 for the paper. Of these 6, you must have **3 quotes, and 3 paraphrases**. THESE MUST BE HIGHLIGHTED IN YOUR ROUGH DRAFT AND FINAL PAPER! Remember, if you use a lead-in, no PD is required.
* **Works Cited Page:** You will draft a works cited page that follows MLA 8 formattingDo not use sites like “Son of Citation” or “Citation Machine” as they are generally unreliable. Cite Fast is pretty good. It is linked on my webpage.

## Research Paper

**Paragraph 1: Introduction** hourglass towards focus

Hook, narrowing – history of the problem, immediate concerns - & thesis/claim (problem in society, why the problem is so bad, and the Big Picture Solution).

## Paragraph 2: Repercussion(s) – impact/effect (big picture – what will happen if this snowballs?)

Weave in textual evidence from research sources (2 per source) with your analysis/commentary. Address counterclaim and refute/provide a rebuttal.

## Paragraphs 3-4: Solutions

-Discuss Band Aid Solution (quick fix – based on solutions you’ve researched – what can your peers do right now to fix this problem in our society?) Weave in textual evidence and analysis.

-Discuss the Big Picture Solution (to end this problem – based on solutions you’ve research). Weave in textual evidence and analysis.

Note: These can be in the same paragraph if one of the types of solutions is not as developed, or in separate body paragraphs if both the Band Aid Solution and Big Picture solution are complex. Remember, these solutions must be based on your research.

## Paragraph 5: Conclusion

Reiterate thesis/claim, and persuade your audience to act! Your audience should want to do something NOW to end this problem in our society!

hourglass back out

* **Rough Draft – due TH, Feb. 20th! Hard copy in class! Must be printed before you enter the room. COW is locked We will be Peer Editing on 2/20; if you do NOT have a hard copy in class you will receive a zero for your rough draft!** I will take print requests until 8:45 AM via email on the due date so NO EXCUSES!!! **No response = no printed copy! **

Your Rough Draft must be typed, double-spaced, 1” margins, 12 point TNR font, MLA heading & header, 3rd person point of view (no “I” “me” “YOU” etc.), centered title, 5-6 paragraphs (see above for content), Works Cited page with header and all 5 sources, 6 in-text citations/PD (3 quotes and 3 paraphrases – 2 total per source) HIGHLIGHT ENTIRE SENTENCE IN PAPER! Note: You may use a highlighter at the beginning of class for your hard copy if you do not have a color printer. The text MUST BE HIGHLIGHTED!

## 

## Max word count of 1,000 words—does not include Works Cited or header/title

## GUM (grammar, usage, mechanics)-Editing – Revised rough draft based on peer editing is due Tuesday, Feb 25th! Hard copy in class – see specification under Rough Draft; if you do NOT have a hard copy in class you will receive a zero for self- editing! Print request until 8:45 AM on the due date = NO EXCUSES! No response = no printed copy! 

**Final Paper – due Tuesday, March 3rd to my email and a printed version!**

## Failure to submit your Final Paper to email ON TIME will result in a 20% reduction per school day (that means if it is after 8:45 AM on Tuesday, March 3rd, you will already receive a 20% reduction which will continue per school day). *So, get your paper submitted ON TIME!!*

**Long-term Assignment**

**This is a long-term assignment!**

**Per the syllabus, all long-term assignments are due on the designated day regardless of the student’s absence or presence at school that day. This is not harsh, it is real life.**

**Topic Proposal Instructions – Due Friday, February 14th go4ecu@gmail.com by 8:45 AM**! Typed, MLA heading & header, and follow formatting below**. Use posted template! Note: Topic Proposal MAY be written in first person POV.**

I should be able to read your topic proposal and know exactly what you plan on discussing in your paper.

**Thesis:** Write your thesis here – remember, your thesis must contain the topic/problem, comment/why the problem is so bad, and your Big Picture Solution. All 3 parts must be in thesis statement.

**Paragraph 1** (include the following pieces listed below in 4-6 sentences):

1. Identify the issue you are going to research.
2. Who is your audience (NOT anyone who reads this OR Mrs. Bondi), and what you know about them – you need to identify who you are attempting to persuade.
3. Why did you pick this topic? Why does this issue get you fired up?
4. Why is the issue you picked an actual issue? Essentially, who cares about your topic and why? Why is it important to the world at large?

**Paragraph 2** (include the following pieces listed below in 6-8 sentences – NOT including 2 quotes):

1. Google or Bing your topic! What did you find out about your topic? Did anything surprise you? What questions came to mind when you started digging?
2. Do some real research! Name at least one article you plan to use in your paper from *Issues & Controversies*. Bold the title of the article in this paragraph.
   1. State/bold the article & summarize the content of the article in 2-3 sentences.
   2. Include 2 quotes from this article that you plan to use in your paper (dropped quotes are fine here).
   3. Tell me how/why you would use this source in your paper (e.g. solution, counterclaim, etc.).

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| **Name: Period:**  **Social Issue Essay Rubric: ELA 3-4 Honors** | | | | | | | |
|  | **MLA Formatting: header, heading, double-**  **spacing, title, margins, font, etc.** | | **/10** | | | | |
|  | **Parenthetical Documentation**  **3 quotes HIGHLIGHTED IN PAPER (5 pts. each)**  **3 paraphrases HIGHLIGHTED IN PAPER (5 pts. each) Correctly cited (lead-ins OR PD)** | | **/30** | | | | |
|  | **Works Cited Page**  **Follows MLA formatting** (header, title centered, double-spaced, alpha. order, indented from the 2nd line down, correctly cited, etc.).  **Includes all Cited Sources** | | **/20** | | | | |
|  |  |  | | | | | |
|  | **Purpose, Focus, & Organization:**   * Strong claim, logical progression of ideas from beginning to end with a satisfying introduction and conclusion * Well-developed ideas * Addressed counterclaim & included rebuttal * Appropriate style and tone established and maintained * Skillful use of transitions to clarify the relationships between and among ideas | | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** | **0** |
|  | **Evidence & Elaboration:**   * Thorough, convincing, and credible support * Smoothly integrated textual evidence * Precise reference to sources (lead-in OR PD) for quotes AND paraphrased material | | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** | **0** |
|  | **Language and Conventions:**   * Power verbs – see posted chart! * Sophisticated diction and syntax * 3rd person POV * Effective use of punctuation, capitalization, spelling, pronoun-antecedent agreement, etc. | | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** | **0** |
|  | **Note: Paper is worth 100 pts.; MLA, PD, & Works Cited is worth 60 pts.** | | **/12** (see conversion chart)  12 = 95-100 10 = 85-89 8 = 75-79  11 = 90-94 9 = 80-84 7 = 65-69  6 = 60-64  **/60** (score from above) | | | | |
|  | **Total** | | **/160** | | | | |
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