

Social Justice/Activism Informative Research Essay Outline

Essay assignment instructions:

1. For your topic, choose an individual, group, or movement that is known for activism and/or making efforts for social justice in some form throughout American history (may be contemporary). Your subject should be one whose ideas parallel those of the authors we've studied during this unit, ie. they/its members have demonstrated that they are willing to break laws, lose their freedom, and/or possibly endanger themselves for their cause to help others and/or end injustice.
2. Conduct thorough research on your subject from reliable sources and develop an informative research essay using MLA format that presents a comprehensive overview of your subject in the following areas:
 - a. Background (ie. what inspired your subject to become an activist/movement?)
 - b. Cause (ie. on what cause does your subject focus AND what objective do they/does it have as an activist/movement?)
 - c. Efforts (ie. what actions/efforts has your subject taken toward their cause and objective?)

SECTION I: Introduction/Thesis Statement: Introduce your subject.

-Hook about your subject OR related directly to your subject their/its cause
-Provide general background information about your subject; CITE anything that is not common knowledge
-Effective lead-in to the thesis statement (bridge general background information to a specific thesis)
-Thesis which directly presents the main ideas of each body paragraph, ie. your subject's background, cause, and efforts.

SECTION II: 3 Body Paragraphs

Even though this is NOT an argumentative essay, you must use the **Claim-Cite-Clarify-Cite-Clarify-Connect** paragraph structure throughout the body of your essay. Follow this structure for EACH body paragraph:

- **Claim** - present the main idea of each paragraph (ie. answer the question given about your subject's background, cause, or efforts)
- **Cite** - provide cited evidence that demonstrates or supports your claim/main idea.
- **Clarify** - explain your cited evidence in your own words.
- **Cite** - provide additional cited evidence that further demonstrates or supports your claim/main idea.
- **Clarify** - explain your cited evidence in your own words.
- **Connect** - reconnect your cited evidence to your main idea AND transition to the next body paragraph.

SECTION III: Conclusion

-*Restate* the thesis, using different words to highlight the main ideas that you have presented and explored in your essay's thesis.
-Review the major points you made about your subject throughout the body, touching on the most important elements in your subject's background, cause, and efforts.
-Final thought/go further about your subject (without introducing a new idea that needs developing)

- **5 research sources, minimum: at least 3 of your sources must be secondary sources, ie. NOT written by your subject.**
- **All evidence needs to be cited using MLA format. Include a WORKS CITED at the end of your paper. ALL formatting must meet MLA format expectations (margins, heading, page numbers, etc.).**
- **Final copies of the paper will be due on Friday, February 15th on TURNITIN.COM.**