

Confronting Institutional Oppression

Background: We have been discussing various forms of institutional oppression from school systems, to prison systems, and even environmental inequalities. Many of the other authors we have read argue the most dangerous form of oppression is institutional, meaning policies and institutional structures function to create vast inequalities for minority people.

For this essay, I would like you to choose one form of institutional oppression and describe how that institution functions to oppress minority people. Then I would like you to offer a solution to this oppression.

First Part: Define Institutional oppression

- How does this institution function to oppress minority peoples?
- Provide specific examples of this oppression.
- How does this institution interact with other institutions to form structural oppression?
- What are some of the long-term effects of these institutional and social inequalities?

Second Part: Offer a solution for how you might use your college degree to combat the inequalities created by institutional oppression. *Note: This need not be a step-by-step proposal, but it should offer a detailed approach for addressing some (if not all) of the institutional and social obstacles you described in Part One.*

Step-By-Step Guide:

1. Make a plan for how you will collaborate.
2. Choose a form of institutional/structural oppression.
3. Do preliminary research in library and online.
4. Decide on which major themes you will focus. *Note: Here you will need to hone in on major key terms and use those to search for more articles later.*
5. Do more research. Choose academic articles that write about the major themes.
6. Summarize main points of articles and pull out important quotations.
7. Make a list of important quotations and points that you plan to use and make in your essay.
8. Draft a Shitty version of Part One. How will you collaborate to do this? Will you all draft sections and then join later? Will you sit together and draft one shitty version in-person?
9. Do more research if necessary.
10. Draft a shitty version of Part Two.
11. Revise both Part One and Part Two. *Note: It often works best if one person does the final edit so that the final draft sounds like one person wrote it.*
12. Bring a Rough Draft to class and be prepared to discuss it.
13. Revise Rough Draft according to peer and instructor feedback.

Tips for success:

- Be careful to **use ideas from at least five sources.**
- Remember to focus your essay around a **central thesis.**
- Remember to **refer back** to that thesis at various points throughout your essay. Your essay should begin with an **interesting hook.**
- Your argument should be supported using **evidence from the text**, which should also be analyzed in detail.
- A solid essay will also provide a summative conclusion.

Particulars: You must use quotations, summaries, or paraphrases from **at least five different** articles or books. You are required to use one of the books/articles we have read in class.

Essay length: 5-8 pages. MLA Format. Times New Roman. 12 pt font.

Rough Draft Due:

Final Draft Due: