

SOCIAL PROTEST MOVEMENTS AND SOCIAL STRUCTURES PROJECT

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During our fleeting time together this term, we explored levels of protest through three rhetorical strategies envisioned and theorized by Dr. John Stauffer of Harvard University. Stauffer enumerated upon the following elements that can be traced to various “texts” that align with protestation movements:

- Empathy
- Shock Value
- Symbolic Action

Each of these elements provides something new—or perhaps nuanced—when considering the works represented from different literary and/or historical movements. Reflect upon our work with *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair: Sinclair forces his readers into the minds, emotional heartbreak, and shocking moments of his protagonist, while thus proclaiming that he will work harder. One can see moments from each of the categories, with the “Symbolic Action” piece being somewhat dependent upon the individual’s interpretation for what the reader believes the author sought to do—whether factual or otherwise. Again, drawing upon *The Jungle* with Sinclair stating in an interview: “I aimed for the public’s hear, and by accident hit it in the stomach.” Therefore, while the author may want one thing, the readership—or perhaps businesses—may project something entirely else. While Sinclair did not have his Socialist Revolution he desperately desired, he at least shed light upon the grotesque and inhumane working conditions of Packingtown.

To that end, you will be creating a Project Action Plan to bring about attention and solutions toward a primary issue that you see within the community. This can be anything or any issue that you believe should be amended. I’m leaving it more open-ended in order to see from your perspectives the problems faced by either your family or community members. The project itself will be scaffolded and will build upon one another—this ensures that I know where you are in the development, and that I can help you out if you need it or “get in the right direction.”

Parts of the Project:

- _____ Proposal of Desired Social Protest Movement Project
- _____ Annotated Bibliography of Resources
- _____ Action Plan for Awareness and Proposed Solution

Proposal Stage:

You will submit a proposal which details the issue that you believe should be explored in more detail or more funds should be allocated to the specific issue. You have free reign over this part of the project as you may know more of the barriers in society that impact you perhaps more than they do me. However, here are a couple issues that you may wish to consider:

- Housing market
- Disaster relief (think about the floods in Yellowstone National Park or even Red Lodge)
- Immigration and Relocation
- Labor and Funds
- Banking Crisis
- Environmental Issues
- LGBTQIA+
- The Question of Abortion and Legality
- Racial Issues and Injustice
- Marijuana
- Homelessness
- Drugs and Methamphetamine Rise
- Others (pending approval)

PROPOSAL

In your proposal, it should clearly state the issue that you see in the community. I should have a clear idea of how it affects you or why you believe it to be a prevalent issue. These topics may be incredibly personal, and that is even more of a reason why it is important to bring attention to. You should also include *where* you research in order to get more involved with this particular issue *as well as* what solution or impact you would like to make. This should be *focused* and not say “to solve all racism or issues in the community” — while that is great, it’s more about the process of making changes or starting community involvement to bring awareness.

I’ll get feedback for your proposal within the week and conference with you if there are any issues or elements that you should refine before moving to the next stage. Note: you may have calls for clarification or amendments to make within your draft to make it more complete or viable.

50 points - proposal

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

At this stage in the project, you will have completed your proposal and proffered it for comments or calls for clarification. Once you get your project approved, you will be in charge of compiling resources or data/information for the issue and its prevalence either within the community itself or on a national level. You will—and should—be drawing from a variety of **reputable** resources. Government websites, interviews with leaders from the community and organizations, academic journals from databases, newspaper articles, census data information are all places you can draw from - we will go over this in more detail.

As you have already completed an Annotated Bibliography for your DBQ analysis, you should already have the framework for the citation policy; however, as a refresher your bibliography must do the following:

- _____ Citation in MLA format (please consult Purdue OWL) - this is an important part and include the hanging indent. Refer to the specific type of source you will be using.
- _____ Summarize the article, source, interview, whatever type of “source” you drew from. This should not include your personal feelings or sentiments - just the facts.
- _____ Evaluate the source - this should explain its relevance for your particular research. How does it help establish the issue or enumerate upon the larger implications of the issue in society?

The Annotated Bibliography should be substantive and contain **five** sources from a variety of areas - I should see a wealth of information as well as the connections you seek to make by the end of the project.

ACTION PLAN FOR AWARENESS AND PROPOSED SOLUTION

While the research performed is great and you established the issue facing society from your vantage point, it is now your responsibility to figure out the “so-what” of it all. Why should people be engaged in this issue and maybe what can be done? While you cannot answer all of the questions, you could provide at least ideas for possible solutions. Whether that is organizing events in the community to bring awareness of the issue, or maybe doing a letter write-a-thon to state representatives citing the need for more allocation of funds or interventions for the issue.

The action plans will be presented to the class, and you should have a presentation board about the process and solution plan on it. We will go over the presentation aspect; however, it should be both organized effectively and organized in its approach, citing evidence as it remains relevant.