**HSP3U Social Issue Assignment**

Social issues are sociological problems that concern a large segment of society. They are the kind of problems that draw a lot attention and elicit a wide variety of opinions. In our society today, there are many issues that are currently being discussed. For this assignment, you will have the opportunity to explore one of these social issues either individually or with a partner. As you examine your issue, you will be applying elements of the social science inquiry model.

**Step 1: Select a Social Issue**

* Either individually or with a partner, you will be researching a social issue.
* Examine the list of topic ideas below and then make a list of your top three topic preferences. \*Note: You may also consider topics not on the list.
* Your teacher will use all the topic preference sheets to do a draw and assign topics to individuals/pairs.
* No more than 1 individual or pair may do a specific topic.
* Topic ideas:
* Abortion
* Bullying
* Domestic abuse
* Drug abuse
* Environmental pollution
* Euthanasia
* Gang violence
* Gender inequality in the workplace
* Homelessness
* Illegal immigration
* LGBTQ rights
* Mental illness
* Racism
* Religious discrimination
* Teen pregnancy
* Transgender athletes
* Unemployment

**Step 2: Narrow Your Focus**

* Narrow your focus as much as possible after you have been assigned a social issue.
* For example, if you selected LGBTQ rights, you might focus on LGBTQ adoption rights. If you chose religious discrimination, you might focus on how Muslims are discriminated against in Canada or the U.S.

**Step 3: Develop Questions**

* Create a list of 5-10 questions you have about the social issue.
* Select 1 question from your list that you want to use as your central research question.

**Step 4: Create a Hypothesis**

* Use your central research question to develop a hypothesis.
* Remember: a hypothesis is a possible answer to your central research question.

**Step 5: Create a Survey (Primary Research)**

* To help prove your hypothesis, you will create a survey and have people complete your survey.
* Your survey must meet the following criteria:
* It should include 15-20 questions.
* It must include some questions that will generate quantitative date (The results can be showcased in a numerical format like a bar graph or pie chart). Examples: multiple choice or yes/no questions.
* Optional: You can create some questions that will generate qualitative data (Questions that are subjective and based on one individual’s experiences). Example: “Tell me about a time when you witnessed bullying at your school.”
* You must give the survey to a minimum of 25 people.
* The survey must be typed.
* You can distribute the survey online (ex. Using Survey Monkey) or in person using hard copies.

**Step 6: Secondary Research**

* To round out your knowledge on the social issue, you will research 2-3 secondary sources.
* Document your findings, paying close attention to how they correlate to your hypothesis.

**Step 7: Summarize Your Results**

* Create a 2-3 page written analysis of your research results (typed and double spaced).
* Begin with an introductory paragraph where you identify: your social issue, your central research question, your hypothesis, and the research methods you used.
* The body of your analysis should include 2-3 paragraphs where you explain how your primary and secondary research proved or disproved your hypothesis. Note: You do not have to discuss the results of every survey question.
* Finish your analysis with a conclusion, summing up your findings.
* Include an appendix after your written report that contains a copy of the survey and visually displays 2 significant numerical findings from your survey (ex. 1 bar graph and 1 pie chart).
* Include an APA-style reference page after the appendix.
* Ensure that your follow APA formatting guidelines for the entire paper.

**HSP3U Social Issue Rubric**

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| Achievement Categories | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 |
| **Knowledge & Understanding**: *The student’s written report demonstrates a strong understanding of how their research supports or contradicts their hypothesis.* | -demonstrates a limited understanding of how their research supports of contradicts their hypothesis | -demonstrates some understanding of how their research supports of contradicts their hypothesis | -demonstrates a considerable understanding of how their research supports of contradicts their hypothesis | -demonstrates a thorough understanding of how their research supports of contradicts their hypothesis |
| **Thinking & Inquiry:** *The student demonstrates excellent critical thinking skills as evidence by their hypothesis.* | -hypothesis demonstrates limited critical thinking skills | -hypothesis demonstrates some critical thinking skills | -hypothesis demonstrates good critical thinking skills | -hypothesis demonstrates excellent critical thinking skills |
| **Communication:** *The student uses proper spelling, grammar, & punctuation techniques to analyse their research. He or she also successfully shows 2 major survey results in a numerical format.* | -expresses and organizes findings with limited effectiveness-visually displays 2 survey findings with limited effectiveness | -expresses and organizes findings with some effectiveness-visually displays 2 survey findings with some effectiveness | -expresses and organizes findings with considerable effectiveness-visually displays 2 survey findings with considerable effectiveness | -expresses and organizes findings with a high degree of effectiveness-visually displays 2 survey findings with a high degree of effectiveness |
| **Application**: *The student applies the survey method and APA style with a high degree of effectiveness (ie. Asking insightful survey questions, developing an APA style reference page).* | -applies the survey method with limited effectiveness-applies APA style with limited effectiveness | - applies the survey method with some effectiveness-applies APA style with some effectiveness | - applies the survey method with considerable effectiveness-applies the APA style with considerable effectiveness | - applies the survey method with a high degree of effectiveness-applies the APA style with a high degree of effectiveness |