Briana Roldan

Eng1710

March 6, 2016

Social Injustice Topics

In today’s current society there are many different issues that involve social injustice. For this paper, I have chosen three topics that I feel are either forgotten within the sea of problems we suffer or have been acknowledged but has not gained enough action or solution to solve these problems. The three issues presented in the following paragraphs are; Deforestation, Drug addiction in teens within rural areas, and Embedded Journalism. I chose these topics because they were reoccurring topics in different documentaries that I have watched. I feel like people should be aware of the harm we are inflicted upon our environment and each other, they should also be aware of the media and their information. Therefore, I have chosen to explain each issue, the sources I used to learn about those issues and their importance, and pick one particular issue to continue writing about in a later paper.

The first issue that I find to be both interesting and alarming is Habitat Destruction, specifically deforestation. Deforestation is an act committed by companies and individuals, it refers to cutting down trees, even entire rain forests for a multitude of purposes. According to an article on the NASA website titled “Tropical Deforestation: Feature Articles,” the direct causes of deforestation include wood extraction, agricultural expansion, and infrastructure expansion. The number one biggest cause of deforestation of Tropical forests is the agricultural expansion needed in order to grow crops and raise livestock to then make a profit off of those crops/livestock. Although the agricultural development may the biggest cause of deforestation, it does not act alone. It is only a part of a chain of causes that include logging, road development, settlers and farmers, who burn and use the rest of the deforested land for their livestock and crop. Before reading this article, I had no idea that deforestation had so many direct causes an effects. I thought that deforestation only occurred to acquire more space for people and corporate businesses. This specific issue concerns me the most because it is something that is occurring daily. According to a journal article found on EBSCO titled “Sustaining the World’s Forests,” almost every second half an acre of a tropical forest suffers from human inflicted harm such as fires, bulldozers, or chainsaws. Every second we spend printing something out on paper, writing something out on paper, using pencils, using toilet paper, or even cardboard objects we are condoning this human inflicted harm. Tropical forests are not only essential to human living but also to our atmosphere, it helps filter our air by providing oxygen and taking in the carbon dioxide. I would pursue this issue because it something that people sweep under the rug, they feel like they cannot do anything to alter it or stop it. I would like to inform people who are unaware of this issue or choose to ignore it that it is harming our earth, it is effecting our living in more ways than one. However, this issue may be a little difficult to pursue because there are so many articles that only talk about deforestation as a whole and does not focus on specific things that are vital to the causes and effects.

Although we may ignore the cause and effects of deforestation, there is a much larger issue that people do not ignore and take much more seriously. This issue is known as Drug Addiction. Drug addiction affects everyone in a multitude of ways, it is more likely to occur in urban and rural communities than any other place. According to a periodical found EBSCO, titled “ADDICTION,” many drug addicts do no only develop a physical dependence for the drug but also a psychological dependence. They start to lose weight, they start to care about nothing but the drug they are addicted to. The brain and the body become used to the drug therefore, it needs the drug to function in a “normal” way. In the same article, the author links drug abuse to the user’s age, claiming that a younger person such as a teenager is more likely to develop a stronger dependency for a particular drug than adults are. This particular claim leads to me a larger part of my research, which is the trend in drug addiction amongst teenagers in a negative environment or even a rural area. According to a journal article titled “Politics of the Urban Poor: Aesthetics, Ethics, Volatility, Precarity: An Introduction to Supplement 11,” published by the University of Chicago, the authors link more than just age to the cause drug addiction, which was very interesting to read. Some of the links that the authors link drug addiction to include poverty, erosion of neighborhoods, the denial of citizenship, and race. These particular links to drug addiction were a little surprising to learn about because I think that a drug addiction really depends upon the person. I would most definitely pursue this specific issue because I have known many people who have struggled with drug addiction and I feel like it something that should be handled in a very serious manner. Drug addiction is a topic that I have always had the interest in writing about and expanding my knowledge of its causes, effects, and history. However, this topic may be a little difficult to pursue because it would require extensive research.

An issue that a majority of the American population may be unaware of is the concept of Embedded Journalism. Embedded journalism is usually referred to the type of journalism that covers military actions or anything that has to do with the nation’s security by contract, much like the ISIS dilemma. However, embedded journalism can be applied to almost all of the interactions made between a journalist and the story they are covering, according to a dictionary definition. In a Journal article titled, “LIVING ON THE FRONT LINE” Chloe Scott-Moncrieff discusses the dangers behind embedded journalism and not being able to report certain aspects of an incident sue to the military contract. This was an interesting concept to learn about because it displays that embedded journalism alters the things that we informed about, it makes question whether certain things are just forms of Propaganda. The claim of Propaganda and putting someone’s life on the line to cover a story leads me to a Documentary titled “The War You Don’t See,” filmed by John Pilger, this intense and shocking documentary really displays how embedded journalism and propaganda go hand in hand. Pilger follows journalism throughout history, discussing a very interesting point in time when informing the public became giving those stories instead of actual, true events. This was an interesting issue to learn about because it makes me question the informative authority in our society today. It really makes me question the things that I am told by the news. I would pursue this specific issue because it is very interesting to learn about, it’s also a little scary to think that contracts between journalists and military officials hide things that may be vital to our living or existence. On the other hand, I do think that this would be a difficult topic to research and write about because there aren’t many articles written on this specific topic.

All three of the social injustice issues presented in the previous paragraphs were very interesting to learn and read about. However, they were also very difficult to find specific articles or general material that support the problem at hand. Although, I am interested in all of the topics explained above, I would purse the topic of Drug addiction and the many links it has between our bodies, brains, and society. I am drawn to this topic because I have a strong personal connection to this specific issue and I feel like it would be a great topic to write an issue paper on. I feel that I am also drawn to this topic because it has so much history and it is a big issue in our current society. It does require lots of research, however I feel that I can most definitely write a well-composed and profound paper on this issue.