

Insert Date [JOURNAL TOPIC #1]

A Personal Exploration

Welcome to the Issues of Diverse Populations class at ARC. This semester we will be discussing a variety of issues that affect different populations. The key populations that will be covered include race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, class (socioeconomics), ability, and age. To better prepare you for your journey it is important to be introspective and figure out where you stand on many hot button issues that these populations face.

The next page has a list of issues that are happening right now in the United States. Your first journal entry will be an exploration of your current attitudes and beliefs about these issues. Some issues you may find you have a stronger opinion than others – that's okay. I also encourage you to come back to your entry a couple of times, as you may find yourself thinking about them as time goes on.

For each of the issues ask yourself the following questions:

- What do you think about it?
- Why do you think that way (i.e. religion, morality, experience, politics)?
- How strongly do you hold your position?
- What would it take to change it?

You are expected to write about all of these issues. As is true for all of the journal entries, you will not be scored based on what you say but instead on your ability to follow instructions. Your journal should reflect your journey through this class so I encourage you to be introspective and honest. Remember that it is impossible to be introspective in less than one full page; my best advice is to let your thoughts flow until they stop (don't try to stop them at the end of the page).

Current Issues

1. In Fall of 2013 Governor Jerry Brown signed Assembly Bill 1266, which gives transgender students in California the right to choose a bathroom and participate on athletic teams that match their gender identity. Since then there has been an initiative movement to repeal this law. Do you support Assembly Bill 1266?

Article: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/danielle-kaufman-md/transgender-students-have-new-rights-in-california_b_3780095.html

2. Across the country there has been debate and legislative action to raise state and federal minimum wage. There have been protests and walk-outs by minimum wage workers around the country, such as McDonalds and Walmart, in support of raising the minimum wage. Do you think believe that full-time minimum wage workers should be able to support themselves and their families on minimum wage?

Article: <http://www.theatlanticcities.com/jobs-and-economy/2013/12/minimum-wage-was-once-enough-keep-family-3-out-poverty/7773/>

3. Do you think that men and women are given equal opportunities to succeed in the workplace?

Article: <http://www.ksl.com/?sid=27801877>

4. Should children and adolescents with disabilities be educated in a typical classroom or should they be placed in “special education” classrooms? Do these special education classrooms provide equal access to education?

Article: http://www.contracostatimes.com/breaking-news/cj_23786899/complaint-sparks-federal-probe-special-ed-discrimination-san

5. Curfews, health care, and birth control. There are many laws which restrict the rights of adolescents and youths across this country. Do you think that these laws are necessary or do they reflect negative cultural attitudes about adolescents and youths?

Article: <http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/publications-a-z/516-adolescent-access-to-confidential-health-services>

6. Do you believe that Whites experience more, less, or the same amount of racism as other racial groups?

Article: <http://now.tufts.edu/news-releases/whites-believe-they-are-victims-racism-more-o>