

Graduation Project: Issue Discussion Questions

Objective: Before you decide on your personal plan-of-action to help your issue, you need to educate yourself about the current state of your issue and what others are doing to address it. The research and observations necessary to answer these questions will help you determine how you can most effectively address the issue on your own.

Directions: Answer the following questions thoroughly and thoughtfully. You should base your answers on both research and personal observation. Answers should be typed and polished. You should also include a bibliography of at least four sources you used to answer your questions; at least one of these sources should not be electronic. Think about sources broadly: they might include books, magazine articles, videos, personal interviews, creditable web sites, organization publications, and current news stories.

Format and Details:

- Answers should be typed in Times New Roman 12 point font.
- Papers should be double-spaced with 1-inch margins.
- The collection of responses should be 3-4 pages long.
- Your writing should be clear, but it may be informal (1st person, some contractions, etc.)
- When you use outside sources your answers should include in-text citation (parenthetical or footnotes) in a consistent format (APA or Chicago). Consult your style manual or online resources for help with citation formatting.
- The bibliography should be attached on a separate page.
- Questions are due to the Graduation Project Coordinator on September 1, 2009.

Questions:

- 1) Review your research on the history of your issue and then consider the present. What does your issue look like today? Why?
- 2) What are the current implications of this problem? Who does it affect? Why is it important to address?
- 3) What organizations or individuals are trying to address your issue? Research and discuss at least three. How successful are their attempts?
- 4) Based on your research and observations, what are two or three specific ways you think that you could address your chosen issue personally?

(Note: Think creatively about question 4, and go beyond the solution of “volunteering at ---- organization.” You can certainly help by working with an organization, but try to think along the lines of a specific project you would do or something you could create for that organization. You may also include an idea that is completely independent of already-existing organizations.)