Senior Social Justice

This is a Semester Project. It is taking the place of an exam. There are no exemptions to the project- if you do not submit a passing project, you will receive an Incomplete on the semester. The project score will count for 20% of your semester grade. This project may be done alone, or you may choose to work with a (single) partner. Throughout these directions wherever it says “YOU” it means you/ partners. **Read through the entire assignment now and again before you submit your work.**

Identify a Social Injustice

You will choose **and have teacher approval** of a social injustice to be the focus of your semester project. If you don’t know where to start with this, review the USCCB’s summary of Catholic Social Teaching (CST) Principles- there is a link on the weebly. A terrific local resource is [www.ihmsisters.org](http://www.ihmsisters.org) (*click on Living Justly)*.

Your social justice is tragic, of course, but it is not just a tragedy like earthquake victims. You will want to briefly research your injustice and re-read the assignment with it in mind to be sure it is workable, however, do not do the work before you have approval of your focus idea. Having started will not sway the yes/no approval decision. If someone in your class hour has asked for “your” topic before you, it will not be approved for you.

When you see/e-mail Miss Pilon for approval, be sure to

* have several choices in case someone has already selected your topic. Injustices will be approved on a first come-first approved basis.
* have an idea which Agency you will visit and what your Service Work will be (below). You will be asked what your ideas are when you seek approval for your topic.
* have your topic approved by the end of the second week of classes OR one will be assigned to you. If you want Miss Pilon’s help with suggestions for topics, see her after school.

**You will not be permitted to change your topic later in the semester.**

**Part 1:** Prayer Service Component

You will show your solidarity with those who are suffering the injustice by planning a themed All-School Prayer Service. Your prayer service should take 15-25 minutes. You will include:

\* at least one appropriate song

\* opening and closings which you write

\* at least one related Bible reading, with the appropriate Catholic response to the reading(s)

\* at least five related prayer petitions,

\* one educational video clip or an optional item listed below.

Optional: skits, speakers (*live or video*), debate, etc. Live speakers must be viable- which means that we could realistically arrange for them to be here if we hold your prayer service. You are welcome to invite your speaker to class, please see Miss Pilon to schedule this.

Your Prayer Service plan will have the written portions, Bible citation(s) and the actual bible reading(s), and links for music/educational videos, appropriate information if you choose an optional item. The plan will approximate the time needed for each portion. It is suggested that you run through your actual prayer service when it is finished to make sure you meet the time parameters. Be certain all web links are active as of your submission. If you quote data, put a Works Cited at the end of your Prayer Service plan.

The finished Prayer Service plan will be emailed to Miss Pilon on or before the due date. Copy your partner on the email. It is possible that you will lead the class using your prayer. In smaller classes, we could have time to pray them all.

**Part II:** Student Service Work Component

Identify an activity/work related to your chosen injustice **which you can and will complete** **this semester**. If at all possible, you will be taking photos of your service work to share with your class on the Project Video (below) that you and your partner create. This service work may be done alone/together and at/not at the same place/time.

Service Work Guidelines:

* minimum of three (3) hours service from **each** partner
* may be done in more than one activity and/or done on more than one day
* Group members do not have to do their three hours of service together or even spend those hours on the same activity- but all hours/activities must directly relate to the group’s chosen injustice.
* may not be for family members or the homes you reside in
* not to be done as an SMCC sponsored activity in which all students are expected to participate (*example- Easter basket or Thanksgiving food collections)* but may be an activity promoted/supported by SMCC not done as a part of the school day. An example would be praying at an abortion clinic/ Life Chain with the Respect Life Team.
* NO GODWORKS. Pre-approval from Miss Pilon for Oaks of Righteousness.
* may be through any organization to which one of you belongs (*church, BSA, employer, etc*.) but may not just benefit the organization (*example- setting up for a church social event*) unless the organization’s event is specifically addressing your social injustice, like a fundraiser. If you aren’t clear on this, check with Miss Pilon **beforehand**.
* may be an act of charity, political volunteering, awareness activities, sponsoring a prayer service, developing and promoting a website, creating a PSA which a local radio, theater, cable channel agrees/could agree to air, writing an article which is published through a recognized venue, etc. I encourage you to be creative! If you are thinking about making a website, please see Miss Pilon for an example of ‘A’ work from a previous group. You will also have to include a brief description of how you promoted your website.
* If you choose to do a fundraiser- your fundraiser may not only be done at SMCC. You will need to make an arrangement to hold your fundraiser at a non-SMCC event/location. That means after a Church service at your Church, at a local store, business or bank, at a community event. If you promote it (also) at SMCC, you will need to get permission from the Principal **in advance.**

You must include verification for your service in the written reflection. This can be a screenshot of X2VOL, **provided the work shows as** **verified and not just approved**. If you organize your own service, please see Miss Pilon to discuss how you will verify it. Of course, photos and videos of yourself doing the service is a great way to verify and those can be included in the project video but those (alone) are not acceptable.

A written reflection will be submitted at [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) on or before the due date. Your written reflection should include:

* minimum 750 words
* name your social injustice and align it with (at least) one of the Seven Principles of CST
* include a brief historical summary of the social injustice and the efforts to resolve it
* description of your service work and the agency sponsoring it
* outline the work of others directly related to your particular service (example- if you assist at a clothing distribution, dozens of people have to have already donated the clothes). Think big- what does that network/pyramid look like?
* discuss how your service benefitted social justice efforts
* discuss what you see as needed to completely resolve the social injustice
* your personal reflection on the experience - how does/did it impact you?
* Works cited for any historical/demographic information

Each partner submits his/her own reflection. You will want to include information from your written reflection(s) in your project video.

**Part III:** Service Agency Tour Component

Choose an Agency doing work related to your chosen social injustice. You will contact your Agency and request an interview/tour. You will dress either professionally OR wear your school uniform to the Agency. It is expected that all group members will tour an Agency, even if you do not go at the same time OR to the same Agency.

Before you call, pre-plan several days/times that you could ask after. Explain that you are seniors at SMCC High School doing a research project and presentation for your Social Justice class. Ask if there is someone at the agency who would be available to meet with you outside of school hours for an interview. You may want to look at the school calendar for planned days off this semester. Explain that you would like to tour the Agency and learn about its contribution to the community.

You will then personally tour the Agency. While you are there, **take pictures/video to include in your Project Video**. Ask in advance for permission for this and follow their guidelines. If this is not allowed for security reasons, discuss this with Miss Pilon. At the very least, you can take pictures of yourselves outside. Pictures which prove your appropriately-dressed presence on the tour are not optional- they are a required component of the Project Video. Tour time **does not** count as your service work hours.

Gather as much information as you can (*see potential list below*)before you interview/tour the agency. This is a good job interview strategy to practice. It improves their impression of you when you are somewhat knowledgeable about them at the interview. Makes sense, right? You are showing initiative in being prepared and interested in them. Information you don’t locate before the interview, ask in the interview. Keep in mind that you will have a limited time with the Agency representative. It is on you to do the background homework. Do not ask them to answer questions that you could find answers to on their website. Be sure to take notes while you are on-site OR immediately afterwards. **Absolutely must do item: thank the agency representative for his/her/their time with you.** Consider any of the following:

Name & Location of the Agency

Mission/Purpose of Agency- *show/quote the mission statement if they have one*  
Target Population (*if not clearly stated in the Mission*)  
Brief History of the Agency  
Careers Available, include what educational/work experience/licensure is required  
# of paid workers, number of volunteers

If you wanted to volunteer this year/in college- what is the process, training?  
What are the agency's annual budget, income and expenses? How are the funds/goods being used obtained?  
How many are served per year? What is the most successful support they offer?  
Describe the programs/major activities offered

**Part IV:** Unifying/Cumulative Project Video

Create a 20- 25 minute video presentation. Your video presentation should be in the format of a news/talk show/documentary. You will stage and costume appropriately for that. **This will not be a 20 minute selfie of you sitting on a couch or a bed in your sweats or shorts.** You will present information on your chosen injustice, your agency tour, and service work. Pay attention to backlighting and audio volume. You may include something from your Prayer Service, if appropriate for this format. A link to wherever the video has been uploaded will be emailed to Miss Pilon before the due date. Please note: these videos are too large to email as an attachment.

You will include the photos or video you took on your agency tour **and** of your service work in this cumulative presentation. You may choose to include a brief history/promotional video on/of the Agency. You will include personal remarks on the value of the work of this Agency and how learning about it impacted you. You must include some of the following in your talk show/news interview:

* How does your agency meet a need that would otherwise go unanswered?
* What aspect of Catholic Social Justice Principles is being met?
* Describe your tour of the Agency. What day & time, who guided you OR was it self-guided, how long did you spend there? What did you see? Who did you meet? Workers? Volunteers? Clients? What did anyone have to say?
* In its programs, how does the Agency avoid discrimination?
* What skills, education, or personality traits would someone have to have to work there? To volunteer?
* Do you agree/disagree that the Agency is doing a valuable work?  
   If it is, how can you support the mission of the agency right now/ in college?

If not, what should be done to meet the need it originally set out to address?

All group members must be featured on camera, more or less equally, in the video. You are encouraged to use appropriate music, sound effects, etc. **All videos will be shown in class.**

Project Grade

Prayer Service Plan- 10%

Service Work & Written Reflection- 20%

Video- 70%

You are strongly encouraged to read through the scoring rubric posted on the weebly.

Reminder: **The** **project (as a whole) is weighted as 20% of your semester grade.**