

- I. GYC-202**
- II. Tamarra Coleman-Hill**
- III. Composition I- Com 101**
- IV. “A Profile of a Social Justice Activist”**

V. Learning outcomes covered by this assignment:

- 1.1 analyze writing situations (take into account audience, purpose, content, form and style);
- 1.2 generate ideas using a variety of prewriting techniques;
- 1.3 decide upon an effective method of organizing and developing material for a particular writing situation;
- 1.4 develop unified, coherent and complete paragraphs with specific and concrete details;
- 1.5 formulate thesis statements that are interesting and significant;
- 1.6 create engaging introductions and meaningful conclusions;
- 1.7 construct logical “bridges” between ideas at the paragraph and sentence level;
- 1.8 revise drafts at the idea level;
- 1.9 edit drafts at the sentence and word levels;
- 1.10 assess feedback from peers and instructors; design revision plans in response to feedback.

VI. Learning outcomes of the assignment:

Along with the listed course outcomes for com 101, students will also gain a better understanding of a social issue through the lens of a public figure and the importance of each of our minor or major roles in creating a more just world. Along with this final writing assignment, as a pre-writing assignment to outline and organize the information that they gather on their public figure, students will learn how to develop a resume, which will be useful for their future professional or educational goals.

VI. Critical thinking skills:

For this assignment, students first have to come to terms with the idea of social justice. What does social justice or social consciousness mean? Students will then have to figure out what public figure is actually working on a social justice issue. Students will have to think about and determine which aspects of their subject’s life are most important to highlight in their profile. They are asked to make decisions about what elements best captures the essence of the public figure they are discussing. Students also have to consider how their subject’s activism fits into their public persona and how that social justice work is relevant to us.

VII. Relevancy to the lives of the students:

Students will be selecting their public figures to profile, and in most cases, they will select a public figure they are already interested in for whatever reason. That makes it relevant to them. They will also be able to make the connection between popular culture and activism, which historically has been a platform for social justice work.

VIII. Assignment:

Profile Essay:

For this essay, students will develop a three page profile on a public figure working on a social issue. This public figure can be a politician, an activist, a business person, a religious leader etc. The public figure could also be a celebrity. However, the purpose of the essay is to highlight the work done by this public figure to further a social cause (hunger, child abuse, labor rights, women's rights, homelessness, environmentalism, health care, etc.). Use the information you gathered to build your resume of this public figure to help develop your essay. Your thesis statement for this essay should be centered around your impression of how this person's work on a social issue has made an impact in the lives of others.

Writing the Profile

A profile essay vividly presents a subject to the readers. The writing is a combination of objective (fact) and expressive (opinion/analysis). While presenting his observations and analysis to inform the reader, the writer also brings his own personal perspective and interpretations to the essay. A profile essay differs from biographical and autobiographical writing in that it takes newly acquired observation, through research or firsthand accounts; an autobiography or biography is about remembered experiences. The challenge of a profile essay is to gather the information and give it shape in an essay that conveys a main idea; there are several guidelines to aid a writer in doing this.

Provide a Vivid Description

- A quality profile essay should incorporate a vivid word picture of the subject. Include specific details, such as how the subject looks, talks, dresses, smells and is motivated. Keep straight description, or just cataloging the obvious, to a minimum; instead, use description to give the sense that the subject's outward appearance reveals inward character traits. Information from others in the essay should serve to describe the subject and not take on its own life.

Convey a Dominant Impression

- A profile essay should convey a dominant impression of the subject: the writer's personal interpretation and insight on the subject and what the writer has gained from observing and researching. Carefully select and arrange details so that they communicate your attitude. This interpretive element is what categorizes the profile essay as a genre and separates it from other forms of narrative and descriptive writing, such as the biography.

IX. Method of assessment:

Students will be assessed on their ability to write a well-developed profile that captures the essence of a public figure in a clear thesis statement. They will also have to show support for that thesis by providing specific examples that support their perspective and overall assessment of the public figure. As in all com 101 writing assignments, student will be assessed on their ability to properly format and organize their essays using conventions of English grammar and MLA style formatting.