



Writing for Change

RAISING AWARENESS OF DIFFERENCE, POWER, AND DISCRIMINATION

4.11 Examining Class

Objectives

Develop an understanding of the term “class” as it relates to students’ majors or fields.

Identify the relevant factors that affect students’ majors or fields.

Materials needed

Pen and paper, or copies of the handout

Reference materials

Time needed

Sixty minutes or more

Instructor directions

Ask your students to write an analytical essay describing how class is operative in their majors or fields.

Ask them to define “class,” to identify the factors relevant to their majors or fields, and to identify how those factors affect themselves and others they know.

Variation

Have your students write an analytical essay describing how they see race or gender operating in their majors.



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4.11 Examining Class Handout

Directions

Write an analytical essay on the following question: How do you see class operating in your major or field?

Address the following:

Define “class.” What factors are relevant to your major or field?

Identify how those factors affect you.

Identify how those factors affect others you know.

How does the construct of “class” enrich or impoverish the experiences of those working and studying in your major or field?

Do you feel that your field could benefit from participation by a greater diversity of members? If so, what are some ways you could help make participation more attractive to particular groups of people?

Variation

Write an analytical essay describing how you see race or gender operating in your major.