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Social Problems 1020-042
Reflection Paper

During this semester I have learned that there are many issues regarding social problems, some of which I never realized just how big such issues could really become. I also learned that I need to pay more attention to the world around me and take action when I can to help improve our world. Social Problems has taught me to look at politics through all perspectives such as conservatives, liberals, and radical left. When I first started this class I was not aware of what politics involved regarding how society deals with its issues.

At first it felt like some of the modules were hard to grasp but after researching these new issues I felt that I could understand most of the issues more clearly. Some of the politics involved are still a little unclear and hard to understand even after research. I feel a little uncertain that I may not fully understand politics as well as I should. Other issues directly or indirectly impact me daily especially issues dealing with children. I work as a teacher's aide at an elementary school where I deal with children with visual and other handicaps.

Module #7 was interesting and a real eye opener. I know that abuse is happening to children, adults and seniors. What I came across with my research is that abuse is more widespread than I imagined. I read stories that were written by children who felt they were strong enough to take the abuse almost as if they felt they deserved it. Helping children realize that no one deserves to be mistreated is an important part of dealing with child abuse. Risk factors for abuse include poverty, alcohol or drug abuse, teen parents, lack of support system, community with high crime rate and mental health issues just to name a few. Since I work with children this module was important information that I need to be aware of. As an advocate for children this module made me realize that there are so many social issues that may impact the children I work with I need to keep updated on this issue.

Module #14 asked me to go to the website <http://www.ed.gov/pubs> and find an article on school violence. I have not thought much about violence happening at my school. After doing research on school violence and bullying I am more aware of it and find I need to take it very seriously. Kids need to start learning about bullying in preschool and continue to be educated on this issue all the way through high school. I feel that at a college level there is still a lot to learn about. I will use what I have learned and apply it to my job by stopping school violence or bullying as I see it happen and help other teachers, parents and the principle to come up with solutions to stop violence and bullying at our school.

I have enjoyed this class and have learned that it is important to be aware of the world's social problems and to keep up on what is going on in the world. This class helped to boost my skills and open my eyes to become aware of the world around me.

