

Rising 8th Grade ELA Summer Project
8th Grade Year-Long Investigative Question:
“How does identity shape perceptions of the world?”

Step 1: Use the list below to choose one current social issue in 2020 that is relevant to you, your family or community. If you have a different issue **outside of the list** that you're passionate about, you may choose that instead!!

Police brutality
Black Lives Matter
The role of government leadership
Protests and activism
The future of schools/ education
Gay, Queer and Trans rights
Science and the environment
Science and healthcare (epidemiology; hospital systems)
Disbursement of information during the pandemic
Anti-Chinese/Asian racism since the pandemic
The economic impact of a global pandemic
Access to healthcare, clean water, food
Indigenous rights
Right vs. Left political divisions in the U.S.
Individual rights vs. collective good
Volunteerism and Mutual Aid
Voter suppression in primaries and elections

Step 2: Do some serious research and reading using credible sources (see below for a recommended list). Read **at least 3 different** sources on your topic. Sources can be fiction or non-fiction books, interviews, podcasts, news articles, blogs, or documentaries. *Don't forget to keep a record of your sources for the annotated research log* (Step 4).

Step 3: Use your reading and research to respond to the following questions in a 2 - 4 page essay: What aspect(s) of my identity am I invoking to explore and research this social issue? How is this aspect of my identity directly impacted and influenced by this social issue?

Your written response needs to include:

- Brief description of the current event that you've chosen for your topic.
- Explanation of the context - What was the situation in the past, and how long has this topic been discussed?

- Discuss what you've learned in your research about the topic. Cite at least one detail and quote per source and analyze the significance of that quote
- Describe your unique perspective on the topic - Has your opinion or understanding changed as a result of research? What do other perspectives say? Do you have recommendations for what the reader should do about this current event?
- What aspects of your identity consciously or unconsciously affected your choice of topic, your opinions, and your life in response to the current situation?

Step 4: Create an annotated research log of sources - cite the resources used by title, author, website, url, etc. Write 3 sentences per resource summarizing the text and telling how you used the information for your response.

Annotated Research Log (*use this as a template and create your own doc with all 3 resources*)

Resource #1 Title: _____

Resource #1 Category (documentary, article, etc.): _____

In three sentences, describe what this was mostly about (summarize):

Some sources to get you started:

[NewsELA](#)

[Readworks](#)

[DemocracyNow News](#)

[BuzzfeedNews](#)

[chalkbeat.org](#)

[National Geographic](#)

[NY Times](#)

[Teen Vogue](#)

[npr.org](#)

Online news-magazine sites to search: Mother Jones, National Review, The Atlantic, The Nation, The New Yorker, The Progresssive The Week, Time

Social Justice booklists: [socialjusticebooks.org/booklists/](#), [Books for kids about racism and protest](#)

