Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Kostopoulos

Homework

Social Issues - Nonfiction

As we continue to read our ORP novels through the lens of social issues, I am noticing that it can be quite difficult to identify what issues arise in our books. This happens because, as good readers, we get so caught up in the story that we forget to pause and look for the social issue as it comes up/is presented in the text. We can describe the problem, but sometimes we have trouble taking the problem out of the novel and looking at it as a problem that affects the world we live in. We need to remember that the author chose an issue (or issues) that affects society and translated it into a story. As you read, you must understand how the author is choosing to present the social issue and what avenue did s/he take in order to teach you about it as well.

I’d like us to make a list of all the social issues we can think of—so we can be more aware of them as we read.  So far, we’ve mentioned at least a couple in class: gender discrimination, poverty, bullying and homelessness.

Your task tonight is to find at least 5 more social issues—you can think of them by yourself, talk to your family, or look for ideas in newspapers, magazines, or online.  The only “catch” is that you have to know what you mean—you can’t just tell us the name of an issue that you found on a list on a web-site, unless you understand or can find out what it is.

Your list of FIVE (5) social issues must be typed. Next to each social issue, please write a short synopsis of your feelings regarding the social issue. You must also include a question about the social issue that you’d like to explore in the future.

Example:

Bullying – Bullying seems to be very common in society today, especially in middle school. It seems like kids can’t get past certain issues and feel the need to bully on another. I wonder why this is? Why can’t kids just respect each other and get along? Why is bullying so prevalent between the ages of 12 and 17?

Keep in mind our working definition, thanks to Wikipedia:

Social issues are matters that directly or indirectly affect many or all members of a society.  They are considered to be problems or controversies.

Good luck! I’m looking forward to seeing what you find!