

Giving Voice Project (Wendy R. Williams)

Throughout this course, we have investigated the personal and situational factors that affect both how social class is viewed and how it is experienced. From an “outsider’s” perspective, the focus on a person’s work ethic and personal choices combine to bolster the seductive ideology of the “American Dream.” Yet, from an “insider’s” perspective, this “Dream” is often blocked by harder to see structural impediments. For the final project for this course, your job is to “give voice” to the realities of those struggling to make their “American Dream” come true in the face of undeniable personal and structural barriers by combining your learning from the course and your experiential activities.

How you chose to “Give Voice” is up to you. You can create a public service announcement, a webpage, a pamphlet, a song, a letter to the editor, a fundraising campaign, a workshop, etc. The key is to combine your learning from this course and to think creatively about giving voice to the realities of trying to achieve the “American Dream” in the United States today, while connecting your project to course material. Once you have created your project, you must implement it—in other words, your final presentation is a report on the action that you have taken to “give voice.” Finally, these are independent projects—no group work is be allowed—and I expect there to be little overlap between projects. If you have an idea you want to use, talk to the professor early. Identical projects will not be approved, and ideas are approved on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Grading

- Giving Voice: What is the potential for the project to raise consciousness on the issue? (20 points)
- Course Connections: Have I discussed how the project related to course content? (20 points)
- Effort: Is it clear to any outside observer that I have put a considerable amount of time into the creation and implementation of my project? (20 points)
- Creativity: How interesting, creative, or novel is my project? (10 points)
- Timely: Have I completed my preparatory tasks on time? (10 points)
- Personal Reflections: Have I reflected on the challenges and rewards of engaging in the project during the presentation? (10 points)
- Presentation: Have I spoken in a clear and engaging way? (10 points)