

Homelessness – A Day in the Life

For those of you who have had me in years past, you are familiar with Creating a Character assignments. This assignment is similar. However, consider this more of a biographical sketch. Instead of putting your character into the context of a historical event, your task will be to describe his/her background and typical day.

This is essentially a prior knowledge assignment on homelessness. You are creating an individual based on what you have seen or heard on the topic. Because of that, it will be particularly interesting to revisit it at the end of the unit to see if your ideas about homeless people changed.

Your character will live in Ann Arbor. Everything else will be up to you.

Answer these questions in your character sketch:

- 1) What is the background of your character?
 - a. Is your character male or female?
 - b. How old is your character?
 - c. What is his/her ethnicity?
 - d. What are his/her likes or interests?
 - e. Does your character have an education?
- 2) Why is your character homeless?
- 3) What type of relationship does your character have with his/her family?
- 4) Does your character have any mental, physical ailments or addictions? Describe.

Number five should be written as a narrative in first or third person.

- 5) What is your character's daily routine?
 - a. Where does your character find food?
 - b. Where does your character spend most of his/her time?
 - c. Does your character have a job? How does he/she make ends meet?
 - d. Where does your character sleep (typically)?

Check List – Check these requirements off as you include the information in your narrative and sketch sheet.

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|-------------------------------|--|---------------|--|---------------------------------|--|--------------------|--|---------------|--|
| Name, Age, Gender & Ethnicity | | Education | | Relationship with Family? | | Food Source | | Job? | |
| Likes/Interests | | Why homeless? | | Physical Mental Problems? | | Spends Time Where? | | Sleeps Where? | |

Questions to consider throughout the unit:

- How do people become homeless?
- What are some of the challenges that homeless people face?
- What are some of the nationwide policies regarding the homeless in the United States?
- Are all people treated equally in the United States?
- How do you think most Americans view homeless people?

Important Dates to Write in Your Planner

The **biographical sketch sheet** is due this **Wednesday, January 25th** or **Thursday, January 26th**. You will begin writing a rough draft of the narrative in class those days.

The **rough draft of the narrative** assignment is due this **Friday, January 27th**.

The **final draft** will be due in one week on either **Monday, January 30th** or **Tuesday, January 31st**.

We are going to use the time in class on those days to read each other's narratives, compare and contrast our perceptions of homeless people, and gather classroom data based on the biographical sketches.

GLCE

6 – P4.2.2 Engage in activities intended to contribute to solving a national or international problem studied.

Name _____

Biographical Sketch of Homeless Character

The following do not have to be written as complete sentences.

Background

Name and Age:

Circle: Male or Female

Ethnicity (white, black, Hispanic, Asian, etc.):

Grew up in what part of the country:

Likes or interests:

Educational Background:

Current Situation

Homeless because:

Relationship with family:

Mental or physical ailments (if yes, describe):

