

2313-HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

Presentation/Essay Suggested Topics

Prepare a 5 page minimum, 10 page maximum, typewritten, double-spaced essay, using 12 point font, on one of the following topics that is the basis of your oral presentation:

1)The topic of abortion from the pro-choice position or the pro-life position (these are the common and overly simplistic ways of expressing the contrary positions- you may express your position using whatever language you consider appropriate, but must take a position on the issue).

2)The Charter of Rights and Freedoms sets out the extent of our rights and freedoms. Discuss whether rights and freedoms are more restricted by virtue of having a written charter. In your answer, consider other countries, their constitutional history and their historical experiences. Discuss whether the Charter is an advancement or limitation on human rights/civil liberties.

(3)Historical discrimination against aboriginal/indigenous persons in Canada can be examined from many angles:

- treatment of missing/murdered women
- treatment of women under the Indian Act
- historical treatment and societal impacts of the residential school system and its aftermath
- general discriminatory treatment against men and women by society (in employment, housing, education, funding, provision of potable water and in the child welfare system)
- 1969 White Paper on Indian Policy

4)Examine an historical example of human rights/civil liberties violations/events in Canada and discuss its/their long-term impact and/or response, if any, by government and/or non-governmental institutions, such as:

- 1760 British Conquest (Colonial Rule)
- 1837-38 Rebellions
- 1896 Manitoba Schools Question
- 1919 Winnipeg General Strike
- 1945 Treatment of Japanese Canadians
- 1960 Canadian Bill of Rights
- 1970 October Crisis

- 1970 Royal Commission on the Status of Women
- 1981 Bathhouse Raids (Toronto)
- Capital Punishment
- Denominational Education in Newfoundland
- Duplessis Orphans
- Hutterites
- Jehovah's Witnesses
- “Spouse in the House”
- Women and the Historic Wage Gap

5) Examine an historical example of human rights/civil liberties violations/events internationally and discuss its long-term impact and/or response, if any, by government and/or non-governmental institutions, such as:

- The Holocaust
- America and the Muslim Travel Ban under the Trump administration
- COVID 19 and any of vaccine passports, mandatory vaccination requirements and/or mask mandates
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- The Situation in Kosovo
- Genocide in Rwanda
- Women's Rights under the Taliban in Afghanistan
- Slavery in the United States
- Jim Crow Laws in the United States
- Uganda's “Anti-Gay Bill”
- Political Dissent in Russia
- The Nuremberg Trials

6) Select a topic of your choosing on approval of the instructor.

Your presentation must answer these basic questions:

- a) Why is it a human rights/civil liberties issue?
- b) What is your position on the issue and why?
- c) What evidence do you have that supports your position?
- d) What is/are the opposing viewpoints on the issue? And why do you disagree with those opposing viewpoints?

Your essay should include citations and a complete bibliography. It is worth 40% of your final mark and is due no later than November 24, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. (send it by email to kcleghor@lakeheadu.ca). **The presentation/essay is optional but must be completed if you make the choice of topic and are scheduled for a presentation.** To obtain a good mark, you must not use merely internet sources- journal articles or texts are the legitimate research sources that must be utilized. BE AWARE OF THE MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM LENGTHS FOR THE ESSAY.

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