

Process Memo

In order to tackle a paper of this length, I began by creating a thesis statement. My thesis for this paper was that the current policies and laws put in place to control and reduce homelessness are ineffective and should be changed. I began searching for support of my thesis in various publications distributed by credible organizations that have done research on homelessness. I also sought support of my thesis through interviews and casual conversations with the homeless people I encountered during my time volunteering at the Tallahassee-Leon County Homeless Shelter. During my time at The Shelter I spoke to a variety of different people experiencing homelessness. I spoke to women, men, and children of all ages and races in order to gain a better understanding of the causes of homelessness and what keeps homeless people from attaining stable housing. As I began writing my paper and recording my thoughts I researched the current laws in place relevant to homelessness and searched for ways these laws could be altered or improved.

I set my paper up in the format where I first introduce the problem, explain the current solutions in place to solve this problem, explained why these solutions are ineffective, and proceeded to recommend amendments or changes to these policies in order to increase their utility. During our in-class peer review workshop, my assigned partner, Manitra, recommended that I should work on explaining how the issue of homelessness fits into a global context. I agreed that this was something my paper was lacking and I fixed this problem by adding in different ways that homelessness affected not only the city of Tallahassee, but all parts of the country as well. In terms of instructor feedback, I was told that I should change the way my paper was organized so that the paper would be easier to follow. In order to do this I moved around a few paragraphs and sentences in order to better distinguish between the research aspects of the paper and my personal opinions,

observations, and thoughts. The biggest challenge I faced with this assignment was organizing all of the different places I acquired my research from. In order to do this I kept a running list of websites, reports, books, periodicals, and other sources as I wrote the paper. This was necessary in order to properly cite all of my sources both in the text as well as on my Works Cited page.

This project unquestionably raised my overall awareness of homelessness in my local community as well as on a global scale. At first I shared the same misconceptions and views that the general public has on the homeless community. However, after this project I learned that homeless people are not what they are made out to be and are in fact struggling human beings that need the help and support of others. This research project exposed me to different ways that I can be of assistance to the homeless community such as petitioning legislative changes. Overall this project opened up my eyes to the hundreds of organizations that work to represent the homeless community and the work that goes into them every day.