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SLC 101
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Self-Reflection 3

An issue that I am very passionate about would be gentrification in areas around the world. Gentrification is "the process of renovating and improving a house or district so that it conforms to middle-class taste" (Florida, 2015). Gentrification increases the economic value of a neighborhood and as a result, it forces out low-income residents due to the increased cost of the rent. The reason that I am personally attracted to this topic is that I see gentrification affecting the neighborhood that I grew up in. Being from Charlotte and now coming to Raleigh, you see the effects of gentrification and it makes you angry that our cities are forcing their residents out onto the streets because they are no longer able to afford to live in their own neighborhoods. My home in Charlotte is a couple of minutes away from the uptown area and they are getting closer every day with renovations and additions that will cause rent to skyrocket. I pray every day that my family back home does not end up on the streets of Charlotte because they were forced out of their own home.

Jean-Paul Satre was my philosopher and he connects to my topic because he believes that "logic cannot help us in specific situations". I agree with this statement because gentrification is the logical thing to do in order to make room for all the individuals trying to move to the city for work reasons, but the human thing to do would be to find land that would not force families out on the streets. Another statement that Jean-Paul Satre has was that "when we choose something for ourselves, we should choose it for all people". I do not think that our cities were keeping all people in mind when they started projects that inflicted the consequences of gentrification onto different groups of people. Everyone has the right to live and now that our cities are taking away

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the homes of families everywhere, we are taking away the rights and people across the country.

My most salient ethical framework is the principle of Justice. This principle states that "we have an obligation to provide others with whatever they are owed or deserve. We have an obligation to treat all people equally, fairly, and impartially" (2012). This relates to gentrification because we all have the right to be treated equally and fairly. Families should not have their homes taken because they are no longer able to pay the ridiculous prices the city is placing on their homes. Families deserve the chance to live freely without having to constantly worry about whether or not their homes are going to be forcefully taken away from them.

My five talent themes were achiever, restorative, harmony, significance, and competition. All five of these themes intersect in every decision that I make, but restorative is significant since its the reason why I chose gentrification for my social issue. Restorative means that I love to solve problems. It means that I like the challenge of analyzing problems and trying to find a solution to each one. Gentrification is a problem that I am interested in fixing and it drives me even more because it is a problem that is personal. I also see my five themes in Jean-Paul Satre because he made choices based on what he believed was going to benefit everyone in the end; this correlates with my theme of harmony. I want to find a mutual agreement between everyone. I do not like friction between groups and I try to find common ground. It can be challenging to satisfy the needs of everyone, but in the end, I do what I think is going to benefit the whole instead of just the individual.

There are two main types of power that I think are enforcing gentrification onto our cities. These two types of power are institutional power and obstructive power. Institutional

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power is economic, legal, and political power directly wielded by institutions. These institutions can be corporations, police departments, and our city governments. Obstructive power stems from the ability to coerce or threaten. You are able to see these types of power in the concept of gentrification because institutions are enforcing gentrification and allowing these projects to take place. They are giving permission to companies to go into different neighborhoods and build homes and apartments that will change the economic environment. These institutions have the authority to go into these neighborhoods and implement these changes and as a result, families are forced to leave and move out of their homes. Obstructive power is present in gentrification because these families are threatened by banks and renovators to leave their homes so they are able to build on their property. They offer these families money to buy their homes so they are able to renovate the land and get other individuals onto the land. They coerce these families into decisions and they threaten them if they do not agree to leave the area. These types of power put families in situations that they should not have to be in like economic uncertainty.

The information that I learned during this reflection has caused me to realize that I have to bring more awareness to the issue of gentrification for my service action proposal. I have to make sure that individuals are aware of the disgraceful actions that our cities our putting on our families. For my proposal, I will have to make it more personal so that others can see that this is an significant issue that is worth given attention to. It is going in a totally different direction of what I was originally going to do for my proposal, but I feel more passion when discussing the effects of gentrification. This is important because when you are passionate about a topic, you

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are able to make others see the importance of the topic. You are able to make others sympathize with you and as a result, they will want to help you solve the issue you are presenting.

Relational Leadership connects to social responsibility because when you are being socially responsible, you are being inclusive in the sense that you are doing good for the good of everyone. In being socially responsible, you are making decisions that are going to benefit everyone and not just some. You are being ethical because you making smart decisions that will not harm anyone, instead, it is going to help them in living a better life. In being socially responsible, you are focusing on the process in which you do things so that you are not unintentionally harming your environment or your community. In being socially responsible, your purpose is to better the whole community by fulfilling your civic duty. Empowerment in involved in being socially responsible because you have to encourage others to be socially responsible as well. Once the whole community is making decisions that benefits everyone, it holds everyone accountable for their actions and how they affect the world around them.

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