

Your Name Here  
English 12  
Senior English Teacher's Name  
October 21, 2016 (date of your outline due date)

## Minorities in Society Today

- I. Introduction
  - A. **Attention Getter:** Did you know that trends project a reversal in the population where by the year 2030, and the majority of people under 18 will be of color, and by 2042 nonwhites will be the majority of the U.S population?
  - B. **Background:** To be a Minority means to be part of a relatively small group of people, especially one commonly discriminated against in a community, society, or nation, differing from others in race, religion, language or political persuasion.
  - C. **Thesis: Minorities in the United States are faced with poverty, stereotypes, and discrimination which leads to disadvantages in careers, housing and education that people other than minorities don't seem to struggle as much with.**
- II. Minorities who live in poverty and high crime areas performance in school.
  - A. The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) found that in reading assessments, a higher percentage of White 4th-graders and 8th-graders scored at or above proficient than did American Indian/Alaska Native, Black, and Hispanic students at the same grade levels.
  - B. In 2008, Black students were 14 percent of ACT test-takers, compared with 11 percent in 1998, and Hispanic students were 9 percent, compared with 6 percent in 1998. Nearly one-third black ACT test-takers met the college readiness benchmark, established by ACT, on all four exams, compared to 3 percent of Black test-takers.
  - C. Studies have consistently shown that compared to their white counterparts, minority students are less likely to graduate high school on time or receive any form of higher education, and more likely to drop out of high school (the Huffington Post).
- III. Many Minorities are subjected to poverty.
  - A. 40 percent or more of minority families have income levels below the federal poverty threshold which nearly doubled between 2000 and 2013, to 13.8 million from 7.2 million.
  - B. In Syracuse, New York, for example, 65 percent of the black population lived in high-poverty areas in 2013, up from 43 percent in 2000.
  - C. According to 2009 data from the Census Bureau, of all children younger than 18 living in families, 15.5 million live in poverty, defined as a family of four with less than \$21,947 per year. This includes 4.9 million, or about 10 percent, of non-Hispanic white

children, and one in three black and Hispanic children, at 4 million and 5.6 million respectively.

#### IV. Stereotypes.

- A. The standard assumption that criminals are black and blacks are criminals is so prevalent that in one study, 60 percent of viewers who viewed a crime story with no picture of the perpetrator falsely recalled seeing one, and of those, 70 percent believed he was African-American. When we think about crime, we ‘see black,’ even when it’s not present at all.” (NY times)
- B. Policy makers have fused crime and race in their policy initiatives and statements. They have crafted harsh sentencing laws that impact all Americans and disproportionately incarcerate people of color.
- C. Repeated exposure to negative stereotypes causes those who are being stereotyped to internalize the stereotypes. This internalization damages character by causing low self-esteem, low expectations, low motivation, self-doubt, etc. And in turn this damage contributes to a host of bad outcomes, such as high unemployment, poor marriage success, low educational achievement, and criminality. Through this process, negative stereotypes can become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

#### V. Product.

- A. **Description:** In my product I conducted an interview of random people in my community asking them if they know what a minority is and if they do, I then ask them if they can tell me one thing that they know about minorities.
- B. **Connection to Research:** My product connects to my research because I am collecting information to show how many people actually know what a minority is and also some facts or stereotypes that they may know that are common.

#### VI. Conclusion.

- A. **Summary:** Minorities in America face obstacles in everyday life that many people turn a blind eye to. Minorities live in some of the most high crime areas and in poverty and are subjects of commonly known stereotypes. Even in education, test scores and graduation rates are the lowest for minorities.
- B. **Thesis:** Minorities in the United States are faced with poverty, stereotypes, and discrimination which leads to disadvantages in careers, housing, and education that people other than minorities don’t seem to struggle as much with.
- C. **Impact:** As a society when will these statistics, stereotypes, discriminations and injustices of minority careers, housing and education stop or change? When the minorities become the majority will the roles switch? Who will have the lowest test scores and graduation rates? Who will live in poverty? Or does nothing change at all?