Social Science and Social Issues Paper Option

Overview
This option allows you to write a research paper on a pressing social issue that affects people or a sector of society. Select a topic the public sees as a central concern and then focus on an issue on which there is disagreement on ethical, religious, political, economic, sectarian, personal, or practical grounds. You may take a side on this issue but only so far as you may support that view after looking at perspectives and evidence. For instance, you may disagree that the fall of social security will negatively affect retirees in the next generation because they will find other ways of saving and investing their earnings that will fill in for reductions in payout. You may think the opposite and that the fall of social security will condemn future working families to a life of poverty after retirement. So what! The point is that you investigate what is really happening, what is impacting people and how, and then compare the facts to your view. Find out where you stand on this issue, get informed about it, and then write on how certain concerns may or may not have an impact on the lives of people in our society or in the world. Take this opportunity to get informed and respond critically.

Assignment Requirements
- Take a position on an issue of social significance and on which people are divided.
- Develop and support a thesis that reflects your view of the facts
- Write a paper that has a minimum of six or seven (6-7) full pages of written text.
- Use a minimum of six (6) good sources, one of which may come from the readings.
- Out of convenience, please use APA guidelines.
- Follow the common research paper guidelines presented in The Writer’s Reference, such as including a title page and reference section.

Concerns
Pay attention to the overall purpose of examining a social issue and what kinds of problems people encounter. Be realistic and avoid packaging. Social issues affect real people and one day you may be in a position where in fact your decisions may affect the lives of others. So, take into account opposing views and the facts some else presents as you will have to position yourself in the debate as an informed critic who has reached a level of competence separating you from “talk show” bickering or “blind partisanship.” Again, try to find a balance between academic discourse by writing for an informed student colleague or the public. And once again, the conclusion may pitch your thesis, but should avoid restatement. The best conclusions pull things together and lay out what people need to know in light of the points and implications that address the social issue.