Topic Stance

Student Names in Alphabetical Order by Last Name

SOC 1B

Date

Dr. Aizon

TOPIC STANCE

(organize by importance of topic)

Battle, K. (2007). Child poverty: The evolution and impact of child benefits. In Covell, K., & Howe, R. B. (Eds), *A question of commitment: Children's rights in Canada* (pp. 21-44). Waterloo, ON: Wilfrid Laurier University Press.

Ken Battle draws on his research as an extensively-published policy analyst, and a close study of some government documents, to explain child benefits in Canada.  He outlines some fundamental assumptions supporting the belief that all society members should contribute to the upbringing of children.  His comparison of Canadian child poverty rates to those in other countries provides a useful wake-up to anyone assuming Canadian society is doing a good job of protecting children from want.  He pays particular attention to the National Child Benefit (NCB), arguing that it did not deserve the criticism it received from politicians and journalists.  He outlines the NCB’s development, costs, and benefits, including its dollar contribution to a typical recipient’s income.  He laments that the Conservative government scaled back the program in favor of the Universal Child Care Benefit (UCCB), and clearly explains why it is inferior.  However, Battle relies too heavily on his own work; he is the sole or primary author of almost half the sources in his bibliography.  He could make this work stronger by drawing from the perspectives of others' analyses.  However, Battle does offer a valuable source for this essay, because the chapter provides a concise overview of government-funded assistance currently available to parents. This offers context for analyzing the scope and financial reality of child poverty in Canada.

Ehrenreich, B. (2001). *Nickel and dimed: On (not) getting by in America*. New York, NY: Henry Holt and Company.

In this book of nonfiction based on the journalist's experiential research, Ehrenreich attempts to ascertain whether it is currently possible for an individual to live on a minimum-wage in America. Taking jobs as a waitress, a maid in a cleaning service, and a Walmart sales employee, the author summarizes and reflects on her work, her relationships with fellow workers, and her financial struggles in each situation.

An experienced journalist, Ehrenreich is aware of the limitations of her experiment and the ethical implications of her experiential research tactics and reflects on these issues in the text. The author is forthcoming about her methods and supplements her experiences with scholarly research on her places of employment, the economy, and the rising cost of living in America. Ehrenreich’s project is timely, descriptive, and well-researched.

Kerr, D., & Beaujot, R. (2003). Child poverty and family structure in Canada, 1981-1997. *Journal of Comparative Family Studies*, *34*(3), 321-335.

Sociology professors Kerr and Beaujot analyze the demographics of impoverished families.  Drawing on data from Canada’s annual Survey of Consumer Finances, the authors consider whether each family had one or two parents, the age of single parents, and the number of children in each household.  They analyze child poverty rates in light of these demographic factors, as well as larger structures that influence child poverty.

OPPOSING ARGUMENTS

(organize by alphabetical order of author’s last name)

Pickel, K.L., and Gentry, R.H. (2016). Slut Shaming in a School Bullying Case: Evaluators Ignore Level of Harm When the Victim Self-Presents as Sexually Available. *Sex Roles, vol. 76*, no. 1-2, pp. 89–98., doi:10.1007/s11199-016-0662-6.

The focus of this article was to investigate the act of slut shaming as a form of bullying. It observes the effects of judgments by participants in viewing cases involving a student appearing as sexually available (control) and a student who shown a certain level of harm (PTSD or mild anxiety). Most participants in the study had more harshly judged the victim that shown levels of harm; however once informed that one victim was sexually available; harsher punishments were distributed onto her. Pickel and Gentry’s main idea for this study was to inform school districts that slut shaming is being encouraged by certain policies that have been placed and encourage that another angle is found to address them.

Sanders, C. E., & Henry, B. C. (2015). Nonhuman Animal Cruelty, Bullying, and Behavioral Difficulties among Women. *Society & Animals, 23*(1), 68-80. doi:10.1163/15685306-12341355

The idea of this scholarly journal was to identify and examine a relationship between bullying among females and behavioral difficulties along with animal abuse. Through assessing surveys to female undergraduate students; the study looks at the participants bullying in college, bullying within their K-12 years, and their experiences involving animal abuse. The aim of this article is to bring to light that women who are animal abusers have had some trauma inflicted onto them caused by bullying in their K-12 years; in which initiated development of bullying behaviors.

Torres-Harding, S. R., Siers, B., & Olson, B. D. (2011). Development and Psychometric Evaluation of the Social Justice Scale (SJS). *American Journal of Community Psychology, 50*(1-2), 77-88. doi:10.1007/s10464-011-9478-2

This focus of this article was to develop a scale influenced by the way members of communities; as well as societies, develop attitudes, behaviors, and make decisions. It observes human decision processes and organizational theories of planned behaviors to view the steps in which social norms affect certain decisions and behaviors. The aim of this article was to develop a measurable aspect towards how social behaviors begin and the steps taken towards their conclusion.