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When you look across your campus and your community, do you observe any social injustices? It may be something you don't know how to address, a concept you want to further explore, or an issue that resonates with you at this moment in time — whether it impacts, targets or relates to you directly or indirectly. (We all need allies!)

Whatever you are thinking about, share thoughts and observations. Choose up to three social injustices you observe on your campus or in your community. Write about the following for each:

Social Injustice #1: Food Insecurity

Tell us who and what it impacts, and why that matters to you here and now.

Food insecurity is a serious problem among college students in our community. During my second year of university, my roommate was afflicted by food insecurity and it broadened my understanding of the prevalence of this issue in our community. Students on campus who are self-dependent on their own income to pay for their tuition, housing, medical bills, and groceries are those most affected by food insecurity. On campus, student workers are barely paid enough to get by, and buying food is often the last item on the list of things to pay for. This is an important issue to me because I lived with someone who was affected by food insecurity and she is very close to my heart. No student should have to choose between paying the bills and paying for food.

How you might become engaged and active around these issues? What is already happening – is there a group, club or nonprofit addressing it?

Luckily, our campus has initiated a program called [Louie's Cupboard](#) that provides healthy, nutritious food for students who suffer from food insecurity. I do my best to make donations often, however, once I am making enough money to support myself and have money left over I would love to invest in a local CSA share for Louie's Cupboard. Everyone deserves access to fresh, local, organic, non-GMO fruits and veggies.

Reflect on how these issues in your local community or campus link to injustices happening globally.

In the global context, food insecurity is a huge problem which is addressed in the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#). Much of the food produced in developing world is for the benefit of the developed world. This is one of the reasons I have stopped eating meat, because

the massive amount of corn that is produced for commercial animal feed (cows don't naturally eat corn) could be redistributed to feed the world's hungry.

Social Injustice #2: Lack of support for Women/Gender Studies Programs (Campus)

Tell us who and what it impacts, and why that matters to you here and now.

The lack of classes offered for those in the Women and Gender Studies major/minor on campus is staggering. My friend and I both have the WGS minor and are struggling to find classes offered to complete the degree program, as I am sure many other students with the major/minor are. My WGS minor is an incredibly important component of my education, as it has allowed me to learn the stories of women and the LGBTQ+ community that were never taught in history classes. Not offering enough classes to fulfill the degree requirement could be detrimental to seniors in these classes who would be unable to graduate from their chosen degree program.

How you might become engaged and active around these issues? What is already happening – is there a group, club or nonprofit addressing it?

To raise awareness for this, I have planned to speak with the head of the department about my concerns for class offerings and join our [Associated Students for Intersectional Feminism](#) club on campus. I always do my best to participate in programs and guest lectures put on by our WGS department to show my support for their hard work.

Reflect on how these issues in your local community or campus link to injustices happening globally.

From my perspective, a lack of support for this social science degree program on my campus is reflective of a larger global stigma around LGBTQ+ and feminist studies; perhaps more so the stories of LGBTQ+ individuals and women. Women and LGBTQ+ communities are so important (and disproportionately affected by climate change) to the future of our society and deserve to be heard.

Social Injustice #1: Uranium Mining and Water Contamination

Tell us who and what it impacts, and why that matters to you here and now.

For the larger Flagstaff community, uranium mining outside our community has been a problematic subject for many reasons. Primarily, this is an issue because it affects the water quality in our community and in Indigenous communities of the Grand Canyon. The [Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act](#) has recently been proposed to put a stop to dangerous mining practices in Northern Arizona.

How you might become engaged and active around these issues? What is already happening – is there a group, club or nonprofit addressing it?

There are a multitude of local and regional organizations who do advocacy work to address the issue of uranium mining in Northern Arizona. One of these groups is the [Grand Canyon Trust](#), an organization with whom campus-connected internships are possible. Another organization, with whom I was connected through a local talk, is the [Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club](#), who are working hard to promote the immediate cease of groundwater flooding in the mine. The Havasupai tribe is also advocating for mine closure, seeing that the toxic contaminated runoff from mine operations is seeping into an aquifer that feeds their primary water source.

Reflect on how these issues in your local community or campus link to injustices happening globally.

Applied to a global perspective, mining for precious metals and rare earth minerals has long been a practice that violated Indigenous land rights and polluted public water sources in developing countries. Take, for example, the collapse of an iron-ore mine in Brazil that released tons of toxic chemicals into estuaries (and eventually the ocean), killing 19 people in the process. Or perhaps the 2014 collapse of the Mount Polley copper and gold mine in British Columbia, Canada. This event released a comparable amount of toxic sludge into a lake nearby. The environmental hazards of mining are too high to risk leaving communities with contaminated water and birth defects for generations to come, yet companies are able to get away with it because there is a globalist culture of profits over people.

Source: [New report urges global action on mining pollution](#)