

Outstanding Student Essays on Poverty and Opportunity

A Call for Student Submissions

2008 – 2009

The Growing Divide:

A University Dialogue on Poverty and Opportunity

Dear Students,

We invite you to consider submitting a thoughtful essay on the topic of poverty and opportunity as a way of participating in the 2008-2009 University Dialogue. The University Dialogue is a central component of the Discovery Program and is an initiative to draw students into a series of community conversations focused on a contemporary issue or big question. This year that theme is “The Growing Divide: A University Dialogue on Poverty and Opportunity.”

Members of the UNH faculty, with a wide variety of specialties, have written a series of short essays on a wide range of topics related to poverty and opportunity. These amazingly diverse essays are available online at <http://www.unh.edu/academic-affairs/discovery/dialogue/2008/packet.html>.

We would like to add a companion packet written entirely by students to this incredible body of work.

We are looking for essays that represent a wide range of views on and approaches to the topic. These will serve as the basis for various classroom discussions, small-group dialogues and campus events. Finally, towards the end of the year, the Faculty Authors and Student Authors will work together to create a summative dialogue where the university community will look back at the year’s conversations, consider questions raised and implications to be explored, and look ahead to the next year. This event will take place at the Undergraduate Research Conference in April.

In order to apply, please submit your completed 1000 word essay and a brief description of yourself (year, major, interests) by **December 5th** to the UNH Honors Student Advisory Board in 211 Hood House. Student Authors will be selected and notified by mid-January and the essays will be edited (with the author) and posted on line for spring courses. Please consider these guidelines as you write:

- Write a 1000 word/4 page essay on the topic that elaborates on the theme of poverty and opportunity. To facilitate accessibility, distribution and balance we will require that author submissions do not exceed 1000 words.
- Please consider your position statement a starting point for a conversation. We would like to emphasize that this essay should be approached as an argumentation piece not a research paper.
- The position papers should not assume fellow students have a prior knowledge of the topic.
- Sources, footnotes and additional resources on campus, and discipline specific reference tools are encouraged. We recommend you seek assistance from a faculty member and/or the Connors Writing Center.
- Position Papers should have a provocative title, preferably in the form of a question. For example, professors have turned in papers entitled: “Hunger and Poverty: A Divided America,” “Owning your Own Home: Reality or Myth,” and “Poor Children, Risky Lives: The Socioeconomic Causes and Consequences of Childhood Disability.”
- Essays are due no later than **December 5, 2008**.

Winning essays will receive a \$100 monetary reward! If you have any questions or would like further information feel free to contact Anna Bruning at awj2@unh.edu or Gabriel Perkins at gfo2@unh.edu. We are looking forward to the participation of many talented students in this program.

Sincerely,

The Honors Student Advisory Board