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Professor Oakes

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Reflection

When I received the feedback for my flowchart, I was asked to think about choosing a topic that added something to the conversation as well as connected to something in my personal, professional, or organization life. I decided I wanted to use this project as a way to connect my majors (Public Health and Policy studies) to explore the relationship between income level, race, and health status. A Public Health class I took Freshman year sparked my interest in understanding and addressing health disparities. This class was called “Health Disparities and Underserved Populations”. This course provided me with a surface understanding of the Social Determinants of Health, Racism, and Sexism. But I was left wanting to look deeper at these issues. A goal I have one day is to use my knowledge surrounding public health disparities that appear in income and health (and other forms) to create societal change through legislation.

The questions I originally posed in my research plan were answered through the work I accomplished through my sources. I went through numerous sources before selecting the ones I was going to “officially” annotate for this portfolio. Many of them were repetitive or outdated, so I removed them from my compiled selection. I wanted my sources to provide a foundation to understand the more intense concepts and to cover a wide range of content While I was completing the preliminary notes exercise and the rounding out the conversation sheet, I made an effort to find sources that were not just scholarly. While I appreciated the content within scholarly pieces, some of them were very complicated and hard to summarize. I enjoyed challenging myself, however I had to recognize my own limits since I am not extremely comfortable analyzing these types of texts yet. To locate scholarly sources throughout the Unit, I used databases offered by Syracuse University. While reading articles, I always clicked on the hyperlinks that brought me to other websites to that offered definitions to key vocabulary terms and concepts. I also used subject searching to browse through different sources. Even though I did not include every source I found, I read every one of them.

Something I found intriguing in one of my sources was when the 5 black women were interviewed about workplace barriers. Not only did I like hearing what they had to say, but I found it interesting that they all had similar responses even though they had different educational and professional backgrounds.

Overall, I enjoyed looking at multiple sources that were relevant to my personal, academic, and professional interests. Looking back, an intersectional approach, which world include gender, race, and class, could be more useful. I did not realize how extreme these issues are for gender until articles I read about race, health, and income. I also found the articles we read in class about gender disparities engaging.