

Health Systems Science II

Module 5

Week 17: Session 6

Activity 5.17.6: Writing a Compelling Introduction

This activity is an opportunity for you to contribute to your Portfolio of Learning by developing the following competencies:

Scholarship



Complete the worksheet and upload the completed worksheet to Ulwazi.

Instructions

This activity consists of three parts. You are required to:

1. Write a captivating hook.
2. Provide a context for your ethics essay.
3. Outline your thesis statement.

Part 1 - Hook

A Hook is an opportunity to grab your audience attention within the context of your topic.

For example: If the essay topic deals with ethical issues abortion following pre-natal testing, your hook could read:

“Abortion is a basic healthcare need for millions of women, where in the space of a year, one in four pregnancies is [terminated](#)”.

1. What possible hooks could you use to capture your reader’s attention?

- Depo-Provera (provide definition) is being presented as medical progress but beneath its promise is a legacy of exploitation, public health control, and disempowerment
- In South Africa, one injection has been made into more than birth control, it has been made into benevolent public health control of black womens bodies”

Part 2 - Context

At this point, it is important to contextualise the topic of your essay and clarify any unfamiliar terms. An example of a context for a topic on pre-natal testing and abortion could read as follows:

“Pre-natal testing is commonly practised in modern medicine. Tests are able to establish - with a high degree of accuracy – that a pregnancy is likely to result in one or more of a variety of possible birth defects.”

2.1 What is the outline of your argument?

- Biopolitical involvement (ways in which Depo-Provera is used as a means of state and neoliberal regulation of fertility)
- Racial & economic aspects (ways in which its mass dissemination is an example of racial capitalism and disproportionately affects poor Black women”
- Ethical issues (ways in which everyday use is an example of medical paternalism, inhibiting consent and autonomy)

2.2 Which terms related to your topic need clarification?

- Definition of Depo-Provera (depot medroxyprogesterone acetate)
- Biopolitical (Foucault)
- Medical paternalism (deciding for the patient without his/her active participation)
- Racial capitalism (intersection of racial exploitation and economic systems)

2.3 How would you summarise and interpret the question for your reader?

The ethical questions is whether the widespread promotion of Depo-Provera in South Africa is indeed e beneficial public health practice, or whether it replicates historial injustices by undermining auto y, perpetuating racial disparity, and entrenching structural violence

Part 3 - Thesis Statement

A thesis statement is one or two sentences that express the main idea or position that you will be taking in your essay. Your thesis statement is the main thrust of your argument. An example for a thesis statement, for the topic: *Physicians should not recommend pre-natal testing for severe birth defects, as this might encourage parents to consider abortion.*, could read as follows:

“In this essay, I argue that abortion in these cases is morally justified and that physicians should, therefore, recommend prenatal testing where such testing is indicated.”

3.1. In one or two sentences, write a succinct sentence where you take a clear position following the topic of your essay.

This essay argues that Depo-Provera is a tool of control rather than empowerment, solidifying neoliberal and post-apartheid Biopolitical control over Black womens bodies, reinforcing racial and economic exploitation, and imposing medical paternalism that denies genuine reproductive choice



References

Amnesty International. (c2020). Key Facts on Abortion. [online] Available at: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/sexual-and-reproductive-rights/abortion-facts/> [Accessed on 8 July. 2020].