

## Voices from the Margins: *An Exploration of Marginalized Voices through Literature*

When a person is marginalized, they are put or kept in a powerless or unimportant position within a society or group. Pushed to the periphery, they are made to feel that their voice, their **Being** is worth less than the norm. For one to be marginalized, of course there needs to be a dominant culture, mindset, group, way of life. Anybody then that is not of the *norm* can at times be cast aside and their voice minimized or even ignored.

It is true that throughout our lives, many of us are marginalized. The process of marginalization can occur at work, in school, on teams, amongst social circles, in society and even at home. From visible minorities, to various religious groups, from women to teens, from the LGBTQ+ and Indigenous communities to the impoverished, people's voice is often ignored or silenced, because they are not deemed worthy or equal.

Using literature as a platform, you will engage in a quarter long project, exploring various marginalized voices. The project is centred on exploring a variety of texts created by marginalized voices. You will have the freedom to select which texts you would like to work with, based on the syllabus provided.

### ***How does all this work?***

You will find on the syllabus *eight* groupings of marginalized voices: Women, Visible Minority, LGBTQIA2S+, Mental Health / Disability, Indigenous, Youth, Religious and Other (consisting of numerous additional marginalized voices). It is important to recognize that people whose voices have been marginalized do not always live in a single 'group', but more often than not, are/have been marginalized in numerous ways (for example a Hindu teen, who has Autism); this is called intersectionality. And while for our purposes, we will focus on a single marginalized group for the most part, there is nothing wrong in acknowledging other factors at work.

In each grouping, there are a variety of texts given, divided by *five* different literary genres (Fiction, Non-Fiction, Art / Visuals, Poetry and Song) and an additional *sixth* genre: Film.

You must select at least *one* text from each of the *eight* groupings to complete **Part 1** of the project. In addition, ensure you have selected at least *one* text from each of the *six* literary genres (this means you will have to find an appropriate film on your own).

After selecting the texts, complete the work provided on the following page. Any questions may be directed to Mr. Sauer.

Once you have selected your texts, please complete the following tasks associated with each piece of literature. Your responses must be clear and provide an in-depth understanding of the texts themselves, the influence and result of being marginalized and connections to the world beyond the text.

For each piece of literature explain:

- 1) In what ways has the text creator represented a marginalized voice?
- 2) In what ways has the text creator shown a response to having been marginalized?
- 3) What is the central theme of the text?
- 4) What is the central tone of the text?
- 5) In what ways is the literary genre chosen important to the representation of the marginalized voice?
- 6) Who is the intended audience?
- 7) How has this text furthered your understanding of this particular marginalized voice?
- 8) What techniques has the text creator used to convey their message?
- 9) How has the perspective of the text creator influenced the text itself and its overall message?
- 10) Was the text effective in conveying its message? Why or why not?

After having done the above for all texts, complete the following:

- 1) What are the similarities between your selected texts?
- 2) What are the differences between your selected texts?

For the above, ensure you consider that all the texts are common, in that they are responding to being marginalized.

### **IMPORTANT**

You *must* respond to texts in the following formats:

- 1) Written Critical Prose - Two
- 2) Written Creative Prose (at least 1) or Poetry
- 3) Visual (Artwork, Photography, etc.)
- 4) Oral (Mini Presentation, Podcast, MP3, Video, etc.)

***How will I present my information to Mr. Sauer? Where will I submit it all? Help!***

I got the answer for you... ready?

When we are done, you will be handing in a **url**, that's it, that's all. This **url** will take people to your website, on *Voices from the Margin*. Creating a website can be as challenging as you want, and that will be left up to you. Some potential programs, website builders are:

WIX (<http://www.wix.com/>)

Word Press (<https://wordpress.com/>)

Weebly (<https://www.weebly.com/ca>)

***Okay, so now that you know how it will end, how will we get there?***

Your website setup is entirely up to you... it is your project after all. I will lay down the basic parameters and you can take it from there. You may want to use tabs for each 'required' portion of the project, combine tasks, dress it up as much as you like / want / feel comfortable with / can (you get it).