

Sample Lesson Plan for Social Movements Literature  
Jamie Bollweg

**Title:**

Introducing The Research Book Report

**Overview:**

This day in class is introducing the Research Book Report. Students at this point have thoroughly studied and theorized about the Belgian Congo. They will now take the skills they've developed of understanding postcolonial theory and begin to put it to action. Before they begin their paper, they will first write a Research Proposal. In the proposal, they will pick their topic, what is the injustice, why they are interested, how they proposal to research it, relate their strong inquiry questions and keywords for research, and ask for my approval. This specific class will introduce the Book Report and Proposal and will serve as a day of brainstorming topics they want to choose.

**Materials:**

Writing utensils for Free Writes

Thinking caps

Laptop or tablet for Google searches and ChatGPT engagement.

**Goals:**

- Have a grasp of the cycle of Power, Privilege and Policy.
  - They will grasp this by coming up with examples of their own. Each student will search the internet, ask ChatGPT, or come up with one from memory, and share what they think is an example of Power, Privilege and Policy to the rest of the class.
  - This discussion and activity follows Friere's model of letting students find the answer themselves, without the teacher just depositing the concept in their head.
- Understand how rhetoric can make change.
  - Taken what we've learned from the examples of Morel, Conrad, Williams, Sheppard, etc., we will discuss and emphasize how writing helped make change and disrupt cycles of Power, Privilege, and Policy.
  - We will discuss questions:
    - What did our heroes in *King Leopold's Ghost* have to do to make change?
    - What other examples of using writing to make change?
- By the end of class, students should feel confident in what topic they are going to choose.

- I will give all these options available, but the students should pick their own that they feel they want to research the most. It doesn't have to be something they know about already, but something they want to know more about.

### **Class Schedule:**

1. Power Privilege Policy. (20 minutes)
  - a. Ask students what Power means.
  - b. Ask students what Privilege means.
  - c. Ask how Power and Privilege are similar or different.
  - d. Ask how Policy (law-making, spoken rules, unspoken rules) is connected to Power or Privilege.
  - e. Circular (draw a circle)
  - f. Explain this concept.
  - g. King Leopold's Ghost example
  - h. King Henry VIII example (PowerPoint slide)
  - i. Amazon example (PowerPoint slide)
2. Ask class to think of their own examples of Power, Privilege and Policy. (10 minutes)
  - a. Do a quick google search, or ask ChatGPT, or come up with your own examples from memory. Write down some brief notes.
  - b. Share out.
3. Show the Research Book Report Assignment Sheet (5 minutes)
4. Show the Research Proposal Assignment Sheet (10 minutes)
  - a. Proposal has 5 parts
    - i. Intro
    - ii. Background Information
    - iii. Goals
    - iv. Research Questions
    - v. Keywords
5. Show Proposal Examples (5 minutes)
6. Free write: (10 minutes)
  - a. What global threat affects you personally?
  - b. What issue makes you feel emotions for people around the world?
  - c. Share out.
7. Brainstorming: (rest of class)
  - a. Students will pick between these broad categories of global threats:
    - i. Climate Change?
    - ii. Imperialism?
    - iii. War?
    - iv. Capitalism?
    - v. Racism?
    - vi. Patriarchy?
    - vii. Authoritarianism?
    - viii. Fascism?

- b. Once they choose one of these broad categories, they will google
    - i. "Where is \_\_\_\_\_ happening/affecting us in the world today?"
    - ii. The blank is the broad category they chose.
  - c. After googling, they should find and choose a more specific crisis.
    - i. Wars?
      - 1. Libya? Israel/Palestine? Yemen? Congo?
    - ii. Climate Change?
      - 1. Coastal Cities (which one!)? Food shortage (where)? Water pollution (where)? Mass migration (where)? Pipelines (where)?
    - iii. Capitalism?
      - 1. Political Money Corruption? Consumerism (how so)?
    - iv. Racism?
      - 1. Police? Prisons? Media?
    - v. Patriarchy?
      - 1. Wages? Misogyny? Sexism?
    - vi. Politics?
      - 1. Putin? Trump?
8. Researching Tools
- a. WMU library
    - i. Pull it up
    - ii. Show off pinning, and advance search...
  - b. Google Scholar
    - i. Searching with google scholar
    - ii. Let's go there now!
    - iii. Click on related sources, other sources that also cited this work.
    - iv. Look at citations in that source you used!
9. Homework
- a. Submit Proposal by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. We will have another class on how to write a proposal.