

PLEASE MAKE A COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT AND SAVE IT IN YOUR SYMPOSIUM FOLDER YOU SHOULD DELETE THE SECTIONS THAT DO NOT APPLY TO YOU. REMEMBER, YOU'RE ONLY REQUIRED TO DO ONE OF THE STUDENT-LED RESEARCH OPTIONS.

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# STUDENT-LED RESEARCH PLAN

## Group members:

Please write the names of your group members here (including their PARK ELA class period):

Erick Garcia, Daniela Martinez, Lupita Nieto

## Driving Question:

What is your driving question? Please type it out below.

How do the perspectives of poverty contribute to the educational, medical, and environmental systems?

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## Interview

Who are you planning on interviewing? Please write their name, occupation, and email address.

We are planning on interviewing a doctors, social workers, and teachers. REST HERE...

How are you going to contact them? Are they a family friend, someone you know, a relative, a friend's parent, a teacher's friend? A stranger? If so, how will you contact the stranger and what will you say? (If you are emailing, your mentor must approve the email and you must make sure your mentor is cc'd to the email. If you are meeting someone, you MUST be accompanied with an adult like a parent or older sibling who is 18 or older. If you are calling, you MUST have a mentor or adult in the room with you as you call.)

We are going to contact them by email or phone call or even face to face if given. Any option. If the person is a stranger we will interview them by saying our cause. For example we could say, "Hi my name is (first name), and I would like to ask you a few questions like if it is hard to teach kids with hardly any money," and for the doctor you could say "is it hard to help someone who needs medical care but barely has any money."

When do you plan on conducting the interview?

The interview conducting will most likely occur during any available time.

## What are the 5 questions that you will ask the person?

**Teacher: Joanna Fuller** (teacher in Watts - a high poverty area of Los Angeles)

**Do you serve people or communities in poverty?** Yes

- 1. As a teacher who serves students in poverty, do you believe that you have enough training and resources to serve your students?** Ok so, speaking specifically about me I would say yes, but I can always be a lifelong learner. I think that I have been given enough training and resources but it's specifically due to the fact that it is my seventh year as a teacher in ethnicity and it is also specifically due to the fact that my program my masters program was for Urban schools. Now if there is a first year teacher that is coming in and they don't have that type of experience in their program or from like actual hands on experience I don't think that every teacher would answer that question with yes.
- 2. Do you have kids in your class that struggle with attendance because of financial difficulties?** Yes, so I would say that with attendance and financial difficulties can result in not having transportation personal transportation, it can result in not having a fund for bus passes and there certain applications that you can go through if you are a student that can get you free bus passes but if you don't have transportation to specific locations to get you bus passes then that can make you in consistent. Some financial difficulties would be when kids even don't come to school because maybe they haven't gotten their uniform school washed their sense of dignity to come to school, a kid doesn't want to come to school unless they're going to be set up for success, so if a student doesn't have their uniform washed, specifically in a black community you want your hair to be done and if your hair is not done you don't have the money to get that done over the weekend specifically girls, they are not going to want to come to school, or they are going to come to school with their hood they know your teacher is going to ask you to take your hood off, but they need to get like their braid or their hair done, so I would say that financial difficulties can impact attendance in multiple ways.
- 3. Do you believe that poverty affects the way kids learn or pay attention?** Yes, so typically in families of poverty there is more children who are put in front of the television as a babysitter because parents don't have the funds to have a babysitter and many parents are working more than one job, so a child that watches television as a babysitter is getting like a different type, when they are growing up they are getting a different type of stimulations so when they are sitting in a classroom that might not be in the same like feel of a television when there is commercials every 10 minutes and the commercials last for like three minutes each, their way to their brains are developing so it's called the stinastics connections of the way their brains are developing are actually going to be different than a child who grows up reading a book, or a child who grows up around families who discuss the things that are going on in the news, like that discussion base type of a family versus sitting in front of a television that is going to impact the way you are learning, the way that you are processing this information that is going to impact the way your attention span is.
- 4. At your school, what does poverty mean for your students both in and out of the classroom?** I would say that schools that I work in have done a really good job at

making sure that they're bringing in outside resources for kids, so although a typical school maybe in like west LA, Beverly Hills, a typical school would not provide pencils and paper, but the schools that I have worked in because we know that the children are not going to have those materials, we already anticipate that and so we make sure that their minimum is there. Like, I don't think that a child should not learn because they don't have a pencil. I can easily provide a pencil, because if a pencil is stopping you from learning, then here take this like 25 cent pencil. So I would say that at a school cite the teachers have really done a good job at making sure that resources are provided.

- 5. In your opinion, what systems impact the lives of impoverished families?** I think the systems of welfare is definitely impacting the lives of impoverished families I think that a great resource and that it is helping many families but at the same time the long term from the effects of welfare can also impact the families in a negative way. For example, if you have, right now I'm in Watts that's where my school is, and there is four housing projects that are around here, this housing project, like this family can stay there for like \$200 a month because that is like a lower rent, from the government, but the problem is that if a family gets a job or if they make a savings account then you know longer qualify for living in that housing project. So, I literally have a student that I am mentoring, and she does not want her mom to get a savings account to save for college, because if she does then her mom will be kicked out of the government providing housing. So, although welfare is a great aspect I think that it is going to help people get back on their feet because they end up creating some long term effects that prevent mobilization out of that social class.

**Doctor:** Errol Sosa

Contact: esosa411@yahoo.com

**Do you serve people or communities in poverty?** Yes

- 1. As a doctor who serves patients in poverty, do you believe that you have enough training and resources to serve your patients?**

Yes there's lots of resources especially in the U.S. In medical school they do teach us courses that help us learn about how to be sensitive to families cultures and poverty. In hospitals we work with social workers to help those families in need.

- 2. Do you have patients in your clinic/ hospital whose health is affected by poverty? (i.e. access to clean air, water, no mold, nutrients, etc...)**

Yes, one thing could be the cockroaches which can cause asthma. Also, there being lead in the water which can affect their health and the expensive medicine which a person is required to have in order to get better is affected by poverty since sometimes you don't have enough money to access your medication

- 3. Do you believe that poverty levels affect the way your patients go to appointments or get regular check ups?**

Yes, two things because there are problems that people in poverty can get free healthcare but the hard thing can be transportation since they have to take the bus because they can't afford a car.

- 4. In your experience serving patients at your clinic/hospital, what changes or decisions do you have to make when a patient is experiencing poverty?**

Well for me I can get the social workers involved and give them information so they can get resources and help for medical care.

**5. In your opinion, what systems impact the lives of impoverished families?**

Well, medical because some of them don't have access but some do. Educational because some don't go to good schools and when they do they don't have the enough materials needed. Environmental because they can have lead the water that the family drinks from and insects such as cockroaches since it can affect people with asthma.

**Social Worker:** Melissa Martinez (associate social worker and currently a clinical therapist)  
Contact: melissjm2@gmail.com

**Do you serve people or communities in poverty?** Yes

**1. As a social worker who serves people in poverty, do you believe that you have enough training and resources to help those people?**

I believe that when it comes to the school, I believe that I do have enough training to serve those people but what has been useful to me is coming from that low income area. Since coming from that area gives me a basic overview but overall it is just continuing and not just focusing on what I learned in school but making sure that I'm open to the changes and to continue to change daily because every individual I serve has different needs.

**2. Do you believe people that struggle with basic needs such as food, shelter, and clothing are given adequate support?**

I don't feel that there is enough support from the government or the communities they come from to get their basic needs. I have seen that there are a lot of single parent households who struggle to have enough money for their food, to pay rent, or to even make sure that their children have enough supplies needed for school such as uniforms. When there are programs available for them, there is always a waiting list and limited funds for them to get their needs for the whole family.

**3. Do you believe that poverty affects the way people on your caseload attend meetings with you and/or does it also affect ways to get to meet with you?**

I believe that poverty affects the way people on your caseload attend meetings with me because a lot of them are not able to miss a day at work in order for them to come and have a meeting with me. A lot of the times that they need a meeting it has to be after 6 pm and most of the times there are already other family that I have to meet up at that time so it is difficult for me to always have enough options available for them for meetings.

**4. What does it mean for you to serve your clients who are experiencing poverty within their lives?**

For me it means a lot to serve clients who are experiencing poverty within their lives because I have come from a family who has needed some of these needs therefore, I understand the struggle they go through. I have also had the opportunities to see the change within the communities that I serve simply by seeing providing the support.

**5. In your opinion, what systems impact the lives of impoverished families?**

The systems that impact the lives of impoverished families, I would say would be the jail system because a lot of times parents are in that system. It just affects the entire family. Another system that impacts their lives is the mental health system and their ability to access their proper support that they may need. Another would also be government assistance, as I have seen that most of the families depend on the assistance that sometimes is provided to them.

**Do you believe that the presence of your clients are affected by their levels of poverty?** Yes I think their presence is affected because a lot of times they get caught up in either a negative

path such as using drugs or being exposed to violence in their community.

**How do your interview questions help investigate the DRIVING QUESTION?**

**They help investigate the ways that poverty affects the different items such as medical care, environment and education. These interviews will help see the perspective of the major roles such as doctors, social workers and teachers on how their roles affect the perspective of poverty.**

**What are the limitations or possible flaws of your interview?**

**The limitations or possible flaws in our interview would be misinterpretations on the questions, misunderstanding of the questions, very different outcomes of the questions, non-related answers, and other different various flaws such as non-cooperation within the survey.**