

Social Justice Art

so·cial jus·tice

noun

1. justice in terms of the distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a society.
2. "individuality gives way to the struggle for social justice"



What is Social Justice? Social justice is the equal access to wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a society.

A Brief History of Social Justice

Social Justice as a concept arose in the early 19th century during the Industrial Revolution and following civil revolutions throughout Europe, which aimed to create more egalitarian societies and stop the capitalistic exploitation of human labor. Because of the large gaps between wealthy and the poor during this time, early social justice advocates focused primarily on capital, property, and the distribution of wealth.

By the mid-20th century, social justice had expanded from being primarily concerned with economics to include other areas of social life to include the environment, race, gender, and other causes and manifestations of inequality. Concurrently, the measure of social justice expanded from being measured and enacted only by the nation-state (or government) to include a universal human dimension. For example, governments (still today) measure income inequality among people who share citizenship in common. But social justice can also be considered at the level of humanity as a whole. As the United States “Slaves, exploited workers and oppressed women are above all victimized human beings whose location matters less than their circumstances.”

Find out how Social Justice and Environmental Justice are intrinsically interconnected.

Grade 11

Research Social Justice Art and find an artist you admire. Find a way to creatively show off your research. You could create a poster, pamphlet, mini book, sculptural book, etc...

Your project will include:

- 5 different art works they have created.
- An explanation of each of the 5 different art pieces including what the piece is about, the size of the artwork, what medium the artist used, and where the artwork is located.
- A picture of the artist.
- A 500 word write up about the artist. Try to find out how they became involved in social justice art.

