SPENT Simulation Lesson Plan
Recommended Resources for Faculty and Students

Overview

This collection of resources includes articles, data sets, videos, and podcasts designed to be accessible in tone, design, and content to a variety of different audiences. Each item listed includes an estimated reading/watching/listening time, a hyperlink to the source, and a brief annotation. Source organizations range from popular news media to advocacy organizations.

The resources are grouped into the following three categories:

- Poverty definitions and measurements

- Public policy and poverty

- Challenging stigma and stereotypes about poverty

Chronic Poverty - A Glossary of Terms

Reference - http://www.chronicpoverty.org/uploads/publication_files/CPR1_appendices.pdf

> From the Chronic Poverty Research Centre in the United Kingdom. A ten-page glossary of terms and definitions used to describe and analyze poverty research, policy, and interventions.

Federal Poverty Guidelines

Reference - https://dch.georgia.gov/federal-poverty-guidelines-0

> From the GA Department of Community Health. List of links to data tables of Federal Poverty Guidelines from 2005 to present.

Guidance for Data Users

3-5 minute reads - https://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty/guidance.html

> From U.S. Census Bureau. Links to brief articles (all 3-5 minute reads) that explain how data is collected, for what purpose, and which data sets are better suited to different purposes (ex: national estimates vs state estimates vs county data, current trends vs longitudinal data).

How is Poverty Measured?

6-minute read - https://www.irp.wisc.edu/resources/how-is-poverty-measured/#:~:text=Poverty%20is%20measured%20in%20the,in%20charge%20of%20measuring%20poverty.

> From the Institute for Research on Poverty. Details the two poverty measurements in the U.S., the Official Poverty Measure and the Supplemental Poverty Measure. Outlines how they are calculated, how they are used, the differences in their results, and common critiques of their accuracy and how they are used in policy-making.

How the Census Bureau Measures Poverty

2-minute read - https://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty/guidance/poverty-measures.html

> Technical explanation of how the Census Bureau calculates poverty thresholds. Includes a breakdown of the math formula for determining whether a family is considered "in poverty" or not. Also includes list of types of pre-tax income included in the poverty calculations.

MIT Living Wage Calculator for Macon, GA

Reference - https://livingwage.mit.edu/metros/31420

> Developed in 2004 by Dr. Amy K Glasmeier at MIT and maintained annually. Provides dollar averages on various costs for different family compositions ranging from a single adult to a five-member nuclear family. Estimates the living wage needed to support families and compares to poverty wage and minimum wage. Data available for every town or county in the USA.

Poverty Talk: Basic Terms You Need to Know Now

3-minute read - https://www.aecf.org/blog/poverty-talk-basic-terms-you-need-to-know-now/

> From the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Explains and compares the two poverty measures in the US, the Official Poverty Measure and the Supplemental Poverty Measure. Includes updated data on poverty rates in the US. Defines the three types of poverty: extreme poverty, low income, and concentrated poverty.

Social Class & Poverty in the US: Crash Course Sociology #24

10-minute video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8PEv5SV4sU

> 2017 video from Youtube Channel CrashCourse. Uses a sociological lens to explain the five social class categories in the United States from a theoretical perspective (upper class, upper middle class, average middle class, working class, and lower class) and explains how different income levels affect class, access to resources and experiences, and contribute to opportunity.

What Are Poverty Thresholds and Poverty Guidelines

4-minute read - https://www.irp.wisc.edu/resources/what-are-poverty-thresholds-and-poverty-guidelines/

> From the Institute for Research on Poverty at University of Wisconsin-Madison. Description of the difference between poverty thresholds, which are used for statistical purposes, and poverty guidelines, which are used to determine financial eligibility for various federal programs. Includes a compare/contrast table that shows how the two are used, calculated, and updated.

A Deadly Poverty Trap: Asset Limits in the Time of the Coronavirus

9-minute read - https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/disability/news/2020/04/07/482736/deadly-poverty-trap-asset-limits-time-coronavirus/

> From the Center for American Progress. Examines some of the effects existing policy has on the disproportionately high rates of poverty among people who are disabled. Raises concerns about the impact of Covid-19 on compounding circumstances and contribute to poverty. Explains how people who receive public assistance are prevented from accumulating savings that could sustain them during the economic crisis created by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Cycle of Poverty Hard to Break in Poorest US City

12-minute listen - https://www.npr.org/2012/07/10/155103564/cycle-of-poverty-hard-to-break-in-poorest-u-s-city

> From NPR's All Things Considered. Profiles Opportunity House nonprofit in Reading, PA that provides 24-hour subsidized daycare. Hear voices of parents – especially single mothers – about the stigma they face for being poor and the importance of childcare and parental support for breaking the cycle of poverty. Highlights the role of policy in trapping people in the cycle of poverty.

Statement on Visit to the USA, by Professor Philip Alston, United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights

28-minute read - https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22533

> Issued Dec. 2017 after a 9-day tour of the US and Puerto Rico by the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights. Provides a comprehensive but brief overview of the many complex and intersecting factors contributing to poverty in the United States with a critique of U.S. social and economic policy. Situates poverty within the U.S. within the context of a global community. Identifies and critiques high-profile 'solutions' to various poverty issues. Includes section on Puerto Rico. Can easily be divided into relevant sections for a shorter reading assignment.

The Story of American Poverty, As Told by One Alabama County

10-minute video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ytd06hadrsM

> From July 2018. PBS News Hour segment on the report about America poverty from UN Special Rapporteur Philip Alston. Uses Lowndes County, Alabama as a case study (from Alston's report) on the racial disparities in waste management and the policy impacts that perpetuate poverty and contribute to negative outcomes for affected populations. Part of the PBS special series, "Chasing the Dream."

Vulnerability in the Face of Economic Uncertainty: Key Findings from the 2019 Prosperity Now Scorecard

17-minute read - https://prosperitynow.org/sites/default/files/resources/2019_Scorecard_Key_Findings.pdf

> From Prosperity Now. Explanation of key findings presented in the 2019 Prosperity Now Scorecard in areas of insufficient wage growth, lack of emergency savings, use of credit and debt,

health care trends, and homeownership. Includes racial inequity analysis for each issue. Pages 9-12 provide overview of 13 different recommendations for policy changes that can address economic inequality.

Why It's More Expensive to Be Poor
7-minute video – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLwRZibUqL0

From the PBS Two Cents show on Youtube. Blends speaking host with animation to illustrate concepts. Explains the hidden costs and financial traps that make it difficult for people experiencing poverty to accumulate enough wealth to break the cycle of poverty. Addresses banking and lending fees, costs of living in food deserts, time cost, decision fatigue, and the scarcity trap.

A Progressive's Style Guide
Reference - https://s3.amazonaws.com/s3.sumofus.org/images/SUMOFUS_PROGRESSIVE-STYLEGUIDE.pdf

> From nonprofit SumOfUs. Offers four central principles to inclusive language – people-first, active voice, self-identification, and proper nouns – and provides a two-page brief for 14 different issue areas with writing guidelines, specific recommendations for use of language, and a table of terms used by issue activists and terms avoided by issue activists.

Being Poor
4-minute read - https://whatever.scalzi.com/2005/09/03/being-poor/

> List of one-sentence feelings or experiences associated with experiencing poverty. Excerpts from this list are typically included in the Poverty Simulation presentation to students as part of discussion.

Busted: America's Poverty Myths
5 episodes, each approximately 20 minutes (blended video and podcast) - https://www.wrvo.org/post/busted-americas-poverty-myths-new-series-media

> From 2016. Five-part series hosted by Brooke Gladstone from APM's *On the Media*. Uses conversations with people living in poor communities in rural Ohio to explore the role of myths about the America dream and media messaging are more influential than facts in shaping Americans' understanding of poverty. Could be assigned as a series or a single episode.

Chasing the Dream – PBS News Hour Special Series on Poverty and Opportunity in America
Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgawtcOBBjr_oP4LhPA6MELWHRZXcFq1k

Website: https://www.pbs.org/wnet/chasing-the-dream/

> This initiative from PBS offers a collection of more than 50 videos, each approximately 8-10 minutes long, about different aspects of poverty, opportunity, jobs, and economic inequality in the United States. Videos address a broad range of issues across the country including policy impacts, rural poverty, suburban poverty, urban poverty, how different populations are affected or vulnerable to poverty, the intersection of race and poverty, and interventions and poverty-disruption efforts.

DCFPI Style Guide for Inclusive Language
13-minute read - **https://www.dcfpi.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Style-Guide-for-Inclusive-Language_Dec-2017.pdf**

> From the DC Fiscal Policy Institute. Publicly available internal document used to inform writing and speaking about issues of poverty and intersectional populations. Includes lists of preferred terms and terms to avoid for each section. Explains rationale behind inclusive language and how it is used in community organizing and advocacy.

Is Poverty Porn a Necessary Evil?

5-minute read - https://brightthemag.com/is-poverty-porn-necessary-evil-aid-charity-humanitarian-donor-donation-c96739a1f311

> From BRIGHT Magazine. Introduces concept of poverty porn. Offers critique of using images of deprivation and desperation to raise money to combat poverty. Addresses the complexity of criticizing a fundraising model that works to provide funds for immediate relief but may compromise potential for long-term, sustainable change.

Why I Hate the Word Beneficiaries

2-minute read - https://brightthemag.com/why-i-hate-the-word-beneficiaries-778f49445402

> Essay from BRIGHT Magazine that critiques the language anti-poverty and development organizations use to describe the relationship between a program and its target population. Explains why the word "beneficiary" is problematic but also raises another issue – that lack of an appropriate word to describe the relationship.