SOC 340: Social Inequality **NAMES** _____

Group Work 4 _____

06.04.14 _____

In the Collins piece for today, we are asked to consider the ways in which our own ideas and behaviors perpetuate someone else's inequality. In terms of activism, we are confronted with a sort of "competition" over what type of oppression is considered most important which, in turn, classifies other types as being less important. While I am not suggesting that this means groups working for positive social change are in some way "doing it wrong", it is important to consider how systems of inequality persist even within our attempts to dismantle them. Today's group work is an exercise in constructive criticism where we will consider the work of various organizations and initiatives through the intersection of race, class, and gender.

Take some time to discuss each organization or initiative that each of you brought for today's group work. What about this example impressed you? How do you see this organization or initiative making positive social change? In the spaces below, offer the name of the organization or initiative and their mission or stated purpose.

Identify a major way that this organization or initiative gets things done. This might be a central program or programs, a strategy, or a tactic that facilitates their work. Who directly/indirectly benefits from this approach? As a group, consider ways this approach connects to the mission statement discussed above. Are there any inconsistencies? Briefly connect the actions of this program/strategy/tactic to the key components of the mission statement below.

How might a reconceptualization of race, class, and gender, as Collins has suggested, bring new issues to light in regard to the organization or initiative in question? Would such a reconceptualization of oppression change the story offered by the organization? In what way(s)?

What change(s) to mission/programs/etc. might facilitate a more equal approach to the oppression these beneficiaries face? Are there strengths to your organization or initiative's approach that illustrate a particularly egalitarian understanding?