

“Human rights” is a fairly modern concept, and it is one that has been getting a great deal of attention here in the early years of the twenty-first century. While opinions differ wildly about what constitutes human rights, most modern world citizens believe that all people should have at least the most basic rights. In the following essay, I will briefly examine this concept by discussing what I consider to be basic human rights. To facilitate my discussion, I will categorize these rights as individual rights, national rights, and general societal rights, and I will talk about just one right from each category.

As a basic individual right, I believe that I have a right to think anything that I choose without hindrance or persecution. What I mean by this is that I should have the freedom to think any way that I wish without someone telling me that I *have* to think a certain way. For example, my government or workplace superiors should never tell me that I must think a certain way, because the thoughts inside my head are none of their business. Furthermore, I have the right *not* to tell people how I truly think about something if I choose to remain silent. For example, I have the right to not say anything about what I think to a police officer, lawyer, or judge. My right to think my own thoughts helps me preserve my own identity, and it helps ensure that I will not get myself into trouble if I am in a bad situation. If this right were taken away from me, I might as well be locked into prison, because I do not believe that I could be a free individual without my own thoughts.

One of the basic national rights that I believe that people of all nations should have is the right to vote for the leaders who run their governments. In other words, all people should have the right to vote in open, free, fair elections. For example, people of all nations should choose their country’s president, prime minister, or other government

representatives. This is an important national right, because people should be able to *choose* their leaders instead of having their leaders chosen *for* them or having their leaders decided by birth. In countries in the world where people are not allowed to vote for their leaders, such as the People's Republic of China and North Korea among others, common people have no voice in their governments, and they normally also do not have other freedoms and rights.

At the macro level of human society as a whole, I believe that all people should have a right to the basic sustenance of food and water. It is a shame that with the modern wonders of the twenty-first century, people in many parts of the world regularly go without food and water for reasons other than those caused by natural disasters. For example, people in many parts of the world go without food and water because of warfare. Also, people all over the world go without food and water due to a lack of money to buy food and water. Food and water are the basic needs of human existence. People can live without clothing and shelter – let alone automobiles, cellular phones, and diamond rings – but life can survive only a limited time without food and water. Actually, there is no recognized basic human right to food and water, but this ideal is at the top of my list of what I consider to be general rights for all humankind.

In conclusion, I believe that any concept of human rights should include the right for individuals to think as they choose, the right for people to vote for their national leaders, and the right for people to have food and water to sustain themselves. Without these basic rights, I do not believe that it is possible for people to truly be free. However, with these rights at the top of the list of basic human rights, I believe that it is possible to achieve a world society in which all people are free and live in peace.

Directions: Using MS Word skills discussed in the computer lab, fix the formatting in the “Rights” Essay.

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ONE OF THE BASIC NATIONAL RIGHTS THAT I BELIEVE THAT PEOPLE OF ALL NATIONS SHOULD HAVE IS THE RIGHT TO VOTE FOR THE LEADERS WHO RUN THEIR GOVERNMENTS. In other words, all people should have the right to vote in open, free, fair elections. For example, people of all nations should choose their country’s president, prime minister, or other government representatives. This is an important national right, because people should be able to *choose* their leaders instead of having their leaders chosen *for* them or having their leaders decided by birth. **In countries in the world where people are not allowed to vote for their leaders, such as the People’s Republic of China and North Korea among others, common people have no voice in their governments, and they normally also do not have other freedoms and rights.**

Directions: The following vocabulary words are found in the Rights Essay Example. Mark the correct box showing how well you know each word listed. Afterwards, complete the required vocabulary assignment.

1001-2000 MFW	Never heard word and don't know it	Heard word but don't know it	Know word some but don't use it	Know word but don't use it	Know word and use it
attention					
birth					
century					
clothing					
diamond					
discussing					
discussion					
examine					
government					
ideal					
inside					
list					
locked					
phones					
police					
preserve					
prison					
regularly					
shame					
shelter					
AWL	Never heard word and don't know it	Heard word but don't know it	Know word some but don't use it	Know word but don't use it	Know word and use it
briefly					
category					
concept					
conclusion					
constitutes					
ensure					
facilitate					
furthermore					

AWL	Never heard word and don't know it	Heard word but don't know it	Know word some but don't use it	Know word but don't use it	Know word and use it
identity					
individual					
normally					
prime					
survive					
sustain					
sustenance					
SPECIFIC	Never heard word and don't know it	Heard word but don't know it	Know word some but don't use it	Know word but don't use it	Know word and use it
automobiles					
categorize					
cellular					
disasters					
essay					
hindrance					
macro					
persecution					
societal					
superiors					
warfare					
workplace					

http://www.er.uqam.ca/nobel/r21270/cgi-bin/webfreqs/read_trial.cgi

Directions: Using your original version of this essay, begin by writing the correct word in each of the 12 boxes found in the following version of the same essay. Afterwards, answer the questions that follow.

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1. What 2 words did you enter into the 12 boxes? _____
2. What part of speech (POS) are these words? _____
3. What is the meaning of each word? _____

Next, examine the words around each boxed POS that are underlined (single or double). Then, complete the chart on the following pages by entering the correct information.

	Underlined words	POS	Underlined words
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			

3. Compare each of the 12 structures in the previous chart. What do you notice about the underlined words that come before and after each POS?

4. How can you categorize the POS in the previous chart? **HINT:** There are 3 different categories. _____

Now, study the grammar rules for using this POS in English academic writing.

After studying the grammar rules for this POS, examine the highlighted words and each POS in the previous text. What is the relationship between each POS and the highlighted words in each sentence? _____

Finally, examine the rest of the text to find more uses of the same POS. Do these additional uses follow the same patterns and rules as the previous ones you analyzed? _____

Try to use these patterns correctly in your academic writing assignments throughout this semester so you can get practice and feedback.