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### Human Trafficking Prevention

Effective human trafficking prevention requires a comprehensive strategy that addresses the root causes, empowers vulnerable populations, and fosters collaboration among communities, governments, and organizations, emphasizing the importance of proactive measures.

According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, "Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act... Traffickers might use the following methods to lure victims into trafficking situations: violence, manipulation, false promises of well-paying jobs, romantic relationships" ("Blue Campaign: What is Human Trafficking?"). Understanding these methods is a key beginning step to tackling human trafficking and protecting vulnerable communities.

In the discourse surrounding human trafficking, different perspectives emerge, some advocating for survivor-based organizations focusing on rehabilitation, while others push for a stricter approach, emphasizing enhanced law enforcement measures and the prosecution of survivors engaged in illegal activities during trafficking. I propose an approach that prioritizes initial support for survivors, recognizing their vulnerabilities and the coercive tactics employed by traffickers. Within the complex dynamics of human trafficking, victims often find themselves ensnared in criminal activities orchestrated by their traffickers. As highlighted in "The Importance of Criminal Record Relief for Human Trafficking Survivors," victims can face arrests for offenses such as prostitution, possession of weapons, drug-related charges, or identity

theft. These crimes are mostly a result of the coercive tactics employed by traffickers who exploit the vulnerabilities of their victims through threats, violence, or psychological manipulation. Holding trafficking victims accountable for these offenses, without considering the coercive circumstances they have gone through, reflects a misunderstanding of human trafficking. Rather than penalizing the victims, legal systems should redirect their focus toward identifying and prosecuting the traffickers responsible for orchestrating these criminal activities. This nuanced perspective underscores the importance of adopting a victim-centered approach within the legal framework, aiming to provide support and relief for survivors rather than perpetuating their victimization through punitive measures. Their life experiences are defined by a history of abuse, which has led them through ineffective systems, "... their stories are similar: They both were Black girls abused as children and cycled from one failed system to the next. Schools didn't protect them. Juvenile detention centers didn't help them. And courts threw them in prison for violent crimes against their abusers" ("Victims behind bars"). This highlights a common and distressing narrative shared by two individuals, both of whom are young Black girls, a vulnerable group. Law enforcement fails in protecting vulnerable individuals. The need for education reform, juvenile justice, and legal systems to address the root causes of trafficking is important. Locking survivors up and punishing them for things they were forced to do is not the way to protect them. This brings attention to the inadequacies of existing laws related to human trafficking. "...the laws that do exist are badly flawed and some states have no laws at all or laws that are only available to people who were minors at the time of their trafficking." ("The Importance of Criminal Record Relief for Human Trafficking Survivors") If some states have flawed laws, there is a need for legislative improvements rather than a justification for

shortcomings. Recognizing these deficiencies should prompt efforts to strengthen legal frameworks, provide better resources for law enforcement, and ensure comprehensive victim support services. The fact that some laws only apply to individuals who were minors at the time of trafficking indicates a need for more legislation that considers exploitation at any age. These quotes not only highlight the urgent need for reform in legal and social systems to better protect and support trafficking victims but also emphasize the importance of addressing systemic failures, improving laws, and avoiding the re-victimization of those who have experienced exploitation.

The root causes of human trafficking are deeply embedded in a complex web of connected factors, from economic, social, to political. Economic factors such as poverty, income inequality, and economic desperation create an environment where vulnerable individuals, particularly Black girls, face increased susceptibility to abuse and systemic neglect. Social factors contribute significantly, with discrimination and marginalization exacerbating the challenges they encounter. The lack of education and awareness further compounds their struggles, limiting access to resources and perpetuating a cycle of disadvantage. On a political level, a weak legal framework and corruption within the system contribute to the failure of protective institutions, leaving these individuals without the necessary support and amplifying their vulnerability. Addressing these root causes requires a multi-faceted approach that tackles economic disparities, social injustices, and political shortcomings to break the cycle of abuse and systemic failure.

Human trafficking brings consequences that affect society and individuals. Socially and economically, it inflicts harm, disrupting communities and perpetuating cycles of poverty. The physical and psychological impact on victims is profound, often resulting in trauma and

post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The enduring effects extend to health risks, as victims may experience a range of medical challenges due to the harsh conditions they endure.

Recognizing these consequences is crucial to understanding the urgency of combating human trafficking, as it not only affects individuals but also has far-reaching implications for the overall well-being of communities and societies. Addressing this issue comprehensively involves not only rescuing victims but also providing the necessary support and resources to help them rebuild their lives and contribute to the prevention of future cases.

Relief for survivors of human trafficking is crucial in aiding their recovery and facilitating a successful transition back into regular life. One survivor strongly suggests that sharing their experiences is crucial for recognizing and escaping from trafficking situations. A simple way to do this is by listening to their stories, which many organizations share. “My employer took away my passport, locked me in the house and disconnected the phone whenever she left home. I was made to sleep on the basement floor. I was so isolated from the outside world that I had no idea there was help available.” (Polaris Project, Survivor Stories) The survivor's story reveals how they were trapped and isolated by their employer, who took away their passport, locked them in, and disconnected the phone. This extreme isolation left them unaware of available help, highlighting the need for awareness and support in combating human trafficking. Many people do not realize that it is not just sexual exploitation that occurs within the realm of human trafficking; it includes slave labor. The Department of Labor (DOL) plays a pivotal role by offering various programs, “such as job-search, job-placement assistance and job-counseling services as well as educational and training services and referrals to supportive services such as transportation, childcare and housing, through its American Job Centers...” (US Department of Labor) The American Job Centers, accessible after HHS certification, provide

survivors with resources like transportation, childcare, and housing assistance. Not for Sale, an organization dedicated to supporting survivors, simplifies the job-seeking process by offering easily navigable resources for various job types and preferences. This practical assistance significantly eases survivors' transitions, aiding in their post-rescue journey making it less overwhelming. The U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking stresses holistic support, emphasizing the importance of addressing mental well-being alongside physical health. Survivors emphasize the need for trauma-informed services, considering their unique needs and trust issues stemming from past trauma. Therapy is identified as a vital component, fostering resilience and empowerment in survivors' lives. Numerous trauma rehabilitation centers are dedicated to helping survivors navigate the psychological and emotional aftermath of trafficking, offering crucial support as they rebuild their lives.

Another critical reason to address human trafficking is its impact on vulnerable populations. Women and girls are particularly susceptible to exploitation in the sex industry, where they face gender-based violence. Migrants and refugees are also at risk, facing dangers such as smuggling and trafficking. Within the labor sector, vulnerable individuals often endure exploitation without adequate legal protections. These populations face heightened vulnerabilities, and addressing human trafficking is essential to safeguarding their rights and well-being. By recognizing and actively working to counteract these risks, we can contribute to creating a safer and more secure environment for those most susceptible to exploitation and abuse.

In conclusion, addressing human trafficking demands collective responsibility. Understanding the comprehensive strategy required to tackle this issue is crucial, involving efforts to address root causes, empower vulnerable populations, and foster collaboration among

communities, governments, and organizations. The Blue Campaign's insight into the tactics used by traffickers highlights the importance of recognizing and understanding these methods as a key step in combating human trafficking and protecting vulnerable communities. As we reflect on the narratives of survivors and the failure of existing systems, it becomes evident that a new approach is necessary. Prioritizing initial support for survivors, acknowledging their vulnerabilities, and understanding the coercive tactics employed by traffickers are essential components of an effective strategy. It is imperative to redirect focus towards identifying and prosecuting traffickers rather than perpetuating the victimization of survivors through punitive measures. This extends to the need for comprehensive reforms in education, juvenile justice, and legal systems. Recognizing systemic failures and improving laws are crucial steps to protect and support trafficking victims without further victimization. To create a lasting impact, there is a need for comprehensive sex education, training for law enforcement and communities, and impactful media campaigns. Education and awareness serve as powerful tools, and initiatives like comprehensive sex education are vital in equipping individuals with the knowledge to recognize and prevent exploitation. California Against Slavery is one organization that gives educational information about human trafficking. This organization makes it easier to find a safe place to stay and helps protect survivors from going through the painful experience of telling their story over and over again. It also saves time for those who are trying to help, so they can focus on directly supporting survivors. Using a single screening tool and making an anonymous request through trusted partners are the first steps in helping survivors feel safe and start recovering. Training for law enforcement and communities is essential for effective intervention and support for victims, while media campaigns and public advocacy play a crucial role in raising awareness and challenging misconceptions. This lies in the collective effort to address

human trafficking comprehensively, from understanding its root causes to implementing education, training, and advocacy initiatives that protect vulnerable populations and support survivors on their journey to recovery.

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### Worldbuilding Research Essay Rubric

*Each category is worth up to 4 points for a total of 24.*

	4	3	2	1
<b>Argument in Context</b>	Hook immediately engages the reader, leading smoothly into a concise summary of the issue and current debate, including at least two major, differing perspectives/viewpoints. The thesis statement is clear and persuasive in the context of the established debate.	Hook is present, but could be more engaging or more smoothly integrated into the summary of the current issue. <b>The debate could be more current,</b> or the summary could be more complete (i.e. the writer needs to consider another perspective on the issue). <b>Thesis statement is present, but it could be clearer or more persuasive.</b>	Hook needs significant improvement (it may be unengaging, cliché, or disjointed). The debate is not current, or the summary is either long-winded or obviously incomplete (i.e. the writer does not entertain a different perspective on the issue, or the issue is unfocused). Thesis statement is unpersuasive.	<b>Hook is missing.</b> <b>There</b> isn't yet an identifiable debate. Thesis is vague.

<b>Support and Development</b>	<p>The writer convincingly supports their argument by integrating the required research source material, using They Say / I Say templates to introduce quotations smoothly and respond insightfully. Writer makes each source's <a href="#">credibility and relevance</a> obvious for the reader in the text. Writer addresses multiple perspectives skillfully in order to illustrate the complexities of the conversation, one of which includes a clear opposing viewpoint. The writer effectively refutes the opposition in order to strengthen their own position.</p>	<p>The writer supports their argument satisfactorily but it could be more convincing. They Say / I Say templates frame each quotation but could be applied more effectively. Each source's credibility and relevance are somewhat obvious for the reader, but could be clearer in the text. The writer could more effectively address multiple perspectives in order to illustrate the complexities of the conversation. The writer addresses at least one opposing viewpoint but could more effectively refute it in order to strengthen their own position.</p>	<p>The writer offers some useful support but it is generally too thin to support the argument satisfactorily. A few They Say / I Say templates are present but need to be used much more often. Questionable source credibility and/or relevance in the text. The essay is not addressing the complexity of the conversation due to some obvious perspectives that are missing. Opposing viewpoint is missing or misapplied.</p>	<p>The writer does not support their argument. They Say / I Say templates are missing or misapplied. Conversation seems one-dimensional or otherwise oversimplified.</p>
<b>Organization</b>	<p>Ideas are coherently and logically organized into paragraphs (intro, body paragraphs, conclusion) and effective transitions. Concluding paragraph follows from and supports the argument presented, leaving the reader with a powerful final impression, lending a sense of closure and unity to the essay.</p>	<p>Ideas are generally coherent and logically organized into paragraphs, although some paragraphs may need to be revised for focus. Some effective use of transitions. Concluding paragraph generally follows from and supports the argument presented, but it could leave the reader with a more powerful final impression or a greater sense of closure/unity.</p>	<p>Ideas could be organized in a more coherent or logical way. Transitions are lacking or ineffective. Concluding paragraph seems incomplete, unsatisfying, or does not completely follow from the argument presented.</p>	<p>Ideas are incoherent and illogically organized. Paragraphs are undeveloped and need transitions. Conclusion is missing.</p>
<b>Voice and Audience</b>	<p>Writer communicates a clear purpose, making the relevance of the argument distinct for the audience. Writer effectively distinguishes</p>	<p>Writer's purpose is somewhat clear, and there is some evidence of attention to the audience. Writer usually distinguishes their own</p>	<p>Writer's purpose is somewhat clear, although there needs to be more attention to the audience in some</p>	<p>The author's purpose of writing is unclear. No obvious attention to audience. Distinction</p>

	their own voice from the voices of others, using voice markers (signal phrases) and embedded references.	voice from the voices of others, but voice markers (signal phrases) and embedded references could be more effective.	areas. Writer does not usually distinguish their own voice from the voices of others. Voice markers (signal phrases) and embedded references are lacking.	between the writer's own voice and the voices of others is unclear.
<b>Research Sources, MLA Format, and Citation</b>	All research sources obviously pass the "CRAP Test." Essay includes at least 7 sources, including 2 primary sources and 5 secondary sources (2 of which are from research databases). <a href="#">MLA format, Works Cited page, and in-text citation</a> are all perfect by MLA standards.	Research sources generally pass the "CRAP Test," although one may be questionable. Essay includes at least 7 sources, including 2 primary sources and 5 secondary sources (2 of which are from research databases). <a href="#">MLA format, Works Cited page, and/or in-text citation</a> are nearly perfect by MLA standards.	Two research sources do not pass the "CRAP Test." Essay includes 7 sources, although they do not meet the minimum primary, secondary, and database source minimum requirements. <a href="#">MLA format, Works Cited page, and/or in-text citation</a> are not close to meeting MLA standards.	Three or more research sources do not pass the "CRAP Test." Essay does not include the required number of sources. MLA format/style has not yet been applied.
<b>Mechanics</b>	Writing is polished, free of spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors.	Writing contains some spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors. However, these errors do not impact the reader's understanding.	Writing contains numerous spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors. These errors impact the reader's understanding.	Frequent errors accumulate, impairing the reader's ability to understand the essay.

Grade: 17/24