

## Exercise No. 4

***How the Other Half Lives***

**Rationale/Goal:** Jacob A. Riis's book *How the Other Half Lives* is very different from Tony McMichael's book *Human Frontiers*. Writing a century before McMichael, Riis is looking at the impact of the environment (social as well as natural) on human lives. Both draw on evidence to support their central arguments.

**Objective:** The major objective for this exercise is for students to gain experience in explicitly dealing with (and evaluating) both objective (quantitative) and subjective (qualitative) kinds of evidence.

**Exercise:** Write a brief paper - approximately three double-spaced pages in length - in which you respond to the following questions. Three pages is not a lot of space so plan your response. Be sure to address each of the points raised in the question. And, as always, the use of clear, grammatically correct sentences and paragraphs is socially acceptable.

**Date Due:** Due in class, Friday, February 3, 2006.

**Questions to be addressed:**

1. What kind of evidence is presented *How the Other Half Lives*?
2. Using the McMichael text for comparison, discuss the kinds of information and perspectives that historical, literary sources like Riis's book offer, and that of the broader, more "objective" sources like McMichael don't.
3. What are the relative strengths and shortcomings of each? Use strategically-chosen passages from the text (and in particular, from Riis) to enhance your argument.

**Grading criteria:**

A successful paper will be about 3 pages in length; it will have a clear assessment of both the weight of the evidence and the coherence of the argument presented; ; it will provide a complete citation for each of the references examined; and, it will be free from grammatical and spelling errors.