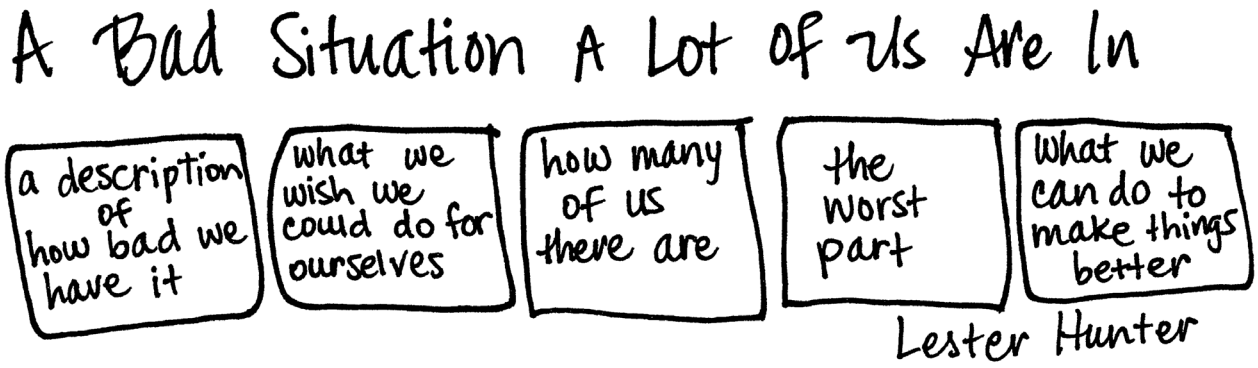
PLANNING PAGE

Name:

TITLE OF YOUR PIECE

TEXT STRUCTURE



KERNEL ESSAY

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

SUGGESTIONS FOR QUICK LIST:

When a population or group goes through a hard time

- war
- poverty
- trouble
- natural disasters
- civil upheaval
- illness outbreaks

MY QUICK LIST OF TOPICS:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

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SOURCE DOCUMENT

"I'd Rather Not Be on Relief"

Lester Hunter Song, 1938

We go around all dressed in rags
While the rest of the world goes neat.
And we have to be satisfied
With half enough to eat.
We have to live in lean-tos,
Or else we live in a tent,
For when we buy our bread and beans
There's nothing left for rent.

I'd rather not be on the rolls of relief,
Or work on the W.P.A.
We'd rather work for the farmer
If the farmer could raise the pay;
Then the farmer could plant more cotton
And he'd get more money for spuds,
Instead of wearing patches,
We'd dress up in new duds.

From the east and west and north and south
Like a swarm of bees we come;
The migratory workers
Are worse off than a bum.
We go to Mr. Farmer
And ask him what he'll pay;
He says, "Yon gypsy workers
Can live on a buck a day."

I'd rather not be on the rolls of relief,
Or work on the W.P.A.
We'd rather work for the farmer
If the farmer could raise the pay;
Then the farmer could plant more cotton
And he'd get more money for spuds,
Instead of wearing patches,
We'd dress up in new duds.

We don't ask for luxuries
Or even a feather bed,
But we're bound to raise the dickens
While our families are underfed.
Now the winter is on us
And the cotton picking is done,
What are we going to live on
While we're waiting for spuds to come?

Now if you will excuse me
I'll bring my song to an end.
I've got to go and chuck a crack
Where the howling wind comes in.
The times are going to better
And I guess you'd like to know
I'll tell you all about it
I've joined the C.I.O.

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