

# Life in a Refugee Camp



*Image courtesy of Creative Commons: EU Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection*

*Guided Writing Assignment*

## Research: Life in a Refugee Camp

First, read the definition of refugee camp below and complete the anticipation side (left) of the grid below with your group. Second, use the UNHCR's slide show to complete your research. You will need to access the "Life in a Refugee Camp" Flickr slideshow from the United Nations High Commission on Refugees. (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/unhcr/3287351955/in/set-72157613974422537>)

**REFUGEE CAMP:** shelter for persons displaced by war or political oppression or for religious beliefs

### Anticipation.

Group work: What would the UN need to provide to people in a refugee camp?

### Research.

Based on the information in the slide show, what does the UN specifically provide to people in a refugee camp? Organize into topics (food, shelter) and provide details about each. Use the back of this paper if necessary.

*(make sure you read all of the information provided **below** the pictures)*

## **Life in a Refugee Camp: Research**

We are going to gather some more information about refugees using the UNHCR website. You will need to access these two links:

- <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646c125.html>
- <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646c1d.html>

Using the links above, find the following *information* about refugees and the work that the UNHCR does with them. This information will be very useful in your opening paragraph of your upcoming writing assignment.

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1. What does UNHCR stand for?
2. What does this organization do?
3. Who are refugees?
4. What problems do refugees face?
5. Where are most refugees located?
6. How many refugees exist today?
7. Why are there refugees? What conflicts today have caused this humanitarian crisis?

## Life in a Refugee Camp: Guided Outline

You are going to write a four paragraph essay to answer the question: “What does the UN do about the refugee crisis?” Before we can write an essay, we need to get our work organized. Use the guided outline below to create your own outline on a separate sheet of paper. Once your outline is finished, use this information to create your essay according to your teacher’s directions.

### I. Introductory Paragraph

- A. **The purpose of the introductory paragraph is to draw your reader in and “put your topic in context.”** When I pick up your paper, your first paragraph needs to tell me where and when this event is occurring. As your reader, I have to know who is affected and why, right from the start. There are two great ways to do this:
1. Historical context – use your who/what/where/ etc. to create an introduction that puts this paper in context. I should know what your topic is and how big the problem is. Try to create a story, rather than a disconnected collection of facts.
  2. You also could research a personal story to briefly use as an illustration of the problem.
- B. **Thesis sentence:** a thesis sentence is basically a topic sentence for the entire paper. It should include words like the “United Nations” and the key words in your topics below.

### II. Provision that the UN makes for refugees #1: \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Fact:
- B. Supporting Fact:
- C. Supporting Fact:
- D. Supporting Fact:

### III. Provision that the UN makes for refugees #2: \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Supporting Fact:
- B. Supporting Fact:
- C. Supporting Fact:
- D. Supporting Fact:

### IV. Conclusion: there is no need to summarize everything you just wrote. Instead consider how to apply what you have researched and written.

- A. Refugee camps are meant to be temporary, so what long term options are available to refugees?
- B. Is there anything more that the UNHCR can do? That the host nations can do?

# Life in a Refugee Camp: Rubric

Name:

UN Refugee Paper

Requirement	Ranking	Comments
<p><b>Opening Paragraph –</b>            *sets the context for paper            *should mention UN / Refugees            *should explain where this is happening            *should have a thesis sentence</p>	1 2 3 4 5	
<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Paragraph</b>            *should have a strong, clear topic sentence            *should include detailed information from the slide show</p>	1 2 3 4 5	
<p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Paragraph</b>            *should have a strong, clear topic sentence            *should include detailed information from the slide show</p>	1 2 3 4 5	
<p><b>Closing Paragraph</b>            *should have a strong, clear topic sentence            *should hypothesize about the future or could explain options for refugees            *other closings are possible as long as they are not summary</p>	1 2 3 4 5	
<p><b>Details</b>            *Shared/named appropriately by deadline            *outline was turned in</p>	1 2 3 4 5	
Total Points:	_____/ 30	
	5= all criteria met 1=few criteria met	

