

Name _____

Reflecting on Suffering

Answer these questions on this paper or in a journal, according to your teacher's directions. Write substantive answers using complete sentences—about one paragraph for each question.

1. Describe a situation of human suffering you have heard about but not directly experienced. This may be an historical event, a current event of national or international scope, or a recent natural disaster. What do you know about this situation? Who suffered, and in what ways? What do you think caused this suffering? What feelings does this situation stir up in you? Do you think something good has come or will ultimately come out of this situation? Why or why not?
2. Describe a situation of suffering you personally have endured. What happened? In what ways did you suffer? How did you feel? What do you think caused this suffering? What, if anything, did you learn from this experience? Did you heal following your experience of suffering? If so, in what way(s)? If you haven't yet healed, what do you think could help you heal?
3. If you were to give advice to a suffering person who is wondering about whether God caused the suffering or wanted him or her to suffer, what would you say?

