

## **Objective**

One of the normative conditions that society favors is the fact that the wealthy will try to evacuate the working-class in order to create a wealthier area with little empathy for the displaced peoples. Using Hansberry's views of restrictive covenants, this paper will show the issues that the working class, a common group of main characters in Hansberry's plays, face when confronted with certain housing restrictions. These housing restrictions are sometimes blatant attempts to remove or exclude a group of people from their communities. These attempts have different names and purposes at different times throughout history. During Hansberry's youth, the restrictions came in the form of restrictive covenants. These restrictive covenants were either unspoken or blatant covenants that attempted to keep people such as minorities and working class families from moving into a middle-class or wealthy neighborhood (Kamp, 486). Ironically, the exact opposite is happening today with housing through the form of gentrification. Gentrification in its most basic form is the 'revitalization' of a neighborhood that has been historically lower-class (Hamnett, 177). The issue is that gentrification displaces an entire group of people. These people are forced to move out through the use of various tricks. Most of these tricks include raising the price of rent or making stores around the area more expensive in order to attract higher class groups of people and in turn create a newer, wealthier community. Using examples of current cases of gentrification and contrasting them with old cases of restrictive covenants, such as Hansberry's case, this exhibit will show the many arguments both cases have and why gentrification is affecting people more than would be expected.