Ehrenreich, B. *Nickel and Dimed: On (not) Getting by in America*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2001. Print.

In this book of nonfiction based on the journalist's experiential research, Ehrenreich attempts to ascertain whether it is currently possible for an individual to live on a minimum-wage in America. Taking jobs as a waitress, a maid in a cleaning service, and a Walmart sales employee, the author summarizes and reflects on her work, her relationships with fellow workers, and her financial struggles in each situation.

An experienced journalist, Ehrenreich is aware of the limitations of her experiment and the ethical implications of her experiential research tactics and reflects on these issues in the text. The author is forthcoming about her methods and supplements her experiences with scholarly research on her places of employment, the economy, and the rising cost of living in America. Ehrenreich’s project is timely, descriptive, and well-researched.

For an essay on poverty, this book will provide well-researched descriptions of experiences of someone struggling to make it while living in poverty which could be useful to demonstrate real-life examples and images to illustrate the problems and struggles of poverty. However, it is lacking in hard facts and statistics, so information from it, while useful to paint a picture for the reader, will need to be supplemented with other sources that provide facts and statistics.