

Sociology 1- Introduction to Sociology Research Paper Guidelines

This research project will provide you with the opportunity to conduct a sociological analysis on a topic of your choosing. You will write a 4-6 page analysis of an issue of your choice (see suggested ideas below). For this paper, you will need to do some outside research to explore your topic and use course concepts to analyze and organize your findings. You will need at least 3 sources. You will also need a reference page listing your sources. The length of the paper (4-6 pages) requires you to condense a lot of material, be sure that you narrow your topic down to a workable paper.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Papers must be turned in at the **beginning of class on day of the final**. You will turn in a hard copy of your paper to me NOT submitted on Etudes and not emailed.
 - Your paper must be typed, double-spaced, one-inch margins, 12 point Times New Roman or Calibri font only.
 - Your paper should be between 4-6 pages in length.
 - You must use peer-reviewed journal articles as your sources; failure to do so will significantly lower your grade.
 - You must use and incorporate one of the major theories discussed in class.
 - Format your citations and bibliography using ASA or APA style. The bibliography does not count toward the page requirement.
 - You should be familiar with proper citation, as well as the appropriate use of quotations. The links on my website are quite useful for guidance in this area. Papers that excessively use quotations will lose points. Your paper should be in your own voice, which means using quotations selectively and only when necessary.
 - You do not need an abstract
 - You need a cover page for the paper; I don't care about the format or images as long as it has your name, class and section.
 - Please proofread your paper.
 - Suggestions for selecting a topic: Pick a topic about which you can find information easily (i.e. not something too obscure). Choose something about which you are interested -- you will read and write about it for several weeks, so it might as well be something you will enjoy exploring. The following is a list of general subjects from which you might select a specific project topic. This list is very general -- use it to spark an idea for a specific, well-developed topic. You need to think through how you will conduct an analysis of your particular topic, what questions you will answer, and what your specific focus will be. Most importantly, be creative and have fun with it.
- Gender and religious participation/affiliation
 - Welfare policies/reform
 - Teen pregnancy
 - Self-esteem and teens
 - Gender images in music (rap, country, pop, folk etc.)
 - Laws and Policies

- Poverty
- Race, Gender, or Class and the legal system
- Women in the sciences, engineering, medicine, vet medicine
- Capitalism
- Sports
- Globalization
- Domestic violence
- Military (Socialization, Group Processes, Gender, Social Control)
- Health, illness, and health insurance
- Magazines and culture (sports, teen, women's, men's etc.)
- Gangs - male and/or female
- Medicalization
- School Violence
- Suicide
- Family Structures
- Same-sex marriage
- Race relations
- Environmental concerns, impact, mobilization
- Toys, games and gender socialization
- Sweatshops/labor use by multinational corporations in 3rd world countries
- Education
- Historical variations in the construction of gender (middle ages, renaissance, civil war, turn of the century, 1920's, WWII, etc.)
- Consumption (in one country or compare countries)
- Illicit drug use and/or related policies
- Aging (look at physical health, financial concerns, widowhood)
- Social networks
- Mental health
- Crime
- Political affiliation

Once you have selected a topic for your research paper, you need to focus and narrow it into a specific research question. Your question should be one that:

- lends itself to sociological analysis
- is not a "yes" or "no" question
- has more than one plausible answer
- you can get the information to answer
- is answerable in the page length allotted

– Questions to answer for your topic selection & description

- *Name your topic:* I am studying _____,
- *Imply your question:* because I want to found out who/how/why _____,
- *State the rationale for the question and the project:* in order to understand how/why what _____.
- State how/which sociological theory provides insight to your topic.
- Identify how each article contributes to addressing your topic.
- Your paper should follow a general flow, give consideration to writing your

introduction, body and conclusion, however keep in mind that you may have subtopics within each. Be sure you stay on topic and fully address your question.

- It is very important that you do not write your paper as just a summary of the articles, for example, do not organize your paper and talk about each article one by one.
- In other words, your paper should include the following basics:
 - Define your question
 - Identify why your question is important
 - Outline what others have found out about your topic (gathered from your articles)
 - Which sociological theory applies to the topic and explain why
 - What your conclusions are based upon what you have read

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Evaluation Process: Paper will be graded in terms of content, insight, originality, analytical skill, organization, clarity of expression, overall presentation style, spelling and grammar, and proper referencing protocols.

2. Plagiarism: students should be aware of the penalties for plagiarism and other form of academic misconduct. Please read the LAHC catalog for the college's policies on cheating and plagiarism. Evidence of plagiarism from other students' work or published materials will result in a grade of zero and disciplinary action will be taken.

3. Computer, printer or other technological failures: Unfortunately, these things do happen. However, they will not be accepted as an excuse for not handing in your assignment. In this day and age saying 'my printer failed,' 'my hard drive/flash drive crashed,' or some other such thing simply isn't good enough. And it isn't good enough for one simple reason: you should be backing up your work and printing out your rough drafts as you write them. If you do this and then come the due date your computer does fail, all you need to do is bring in your rough work and then something can be worked out. It'll not only save you getting zero on your assignment, most importantly it will save you a lot of stress.

4. Submission Protocols: **Under no circumstances will papers be accepted by e-mail, fax or by being slipped in my mailbox. You must hand the paper to me personally on the date it is due.**