

SOCIOLOGY RESEARCH PROJECT ASSIGNMENT

As the research portion of the Sociology class you will be required to select a topic and research about how this social issue affects society.

The Research:

Once you have chosen a topic that has been approved by Mr. Nettleton, you will want to begin your research. Your best bet is to begin with your sociology textbook. You will need to analyze important sociological concepts into your research presentation. We will be visiting the Southwest library and computer labs during class to conduct research.

Thesis Statement:

You will need to write a thesis statement, which will be an overview of your subject. *We will develop these thesis statements in class. This thesis will need to be typed and submitted along with your annotated bibliography.

Presentation:

You will be expected to put together a **4-5 minute presentation** to the class which gives an overview of your research. This presentation will be brief due to the time constraints, but should still be informative and entertaining to the class.

You will need to include a visual aid **AND** an audience participation component in your presentation.

Visual Aid options: powerpoint, Prezi or imovie

Audience Participation examples: an interactive game or discussion questions

All presentation ideas must be approved by Mr. Nettleton and you will need to indicate any equipment needed (dvd player, LCD projector, etc.) in advance.

Annotated Reference Page:

You will need to compile all sources into an MLA format annotated reference page.

What to Include in your Research Project Presentation

Thesis

Identify the issue through a thesis statement

a. You will be expected to type out your thesis statement in a word document to hand in.

b. Additionally, you will need to include your thesis statement at the beginning of your visual aid for your presentation

Address the following questions through your VISUAL AID/INTERACTIVE ACTIVITY:

1. What impact does (or did, if you're researching a past event) your topic have on society in the U.S. (or in the world)?

-By making this connection, you are applying the concepts of sociology to your specific topic. This is an important connection to make so that it is obvious to me that you understand how/why your chosen topic is important and applicable to the study of sociology.

-Write OBJECTIVELY (relating information in an impersonal manner without feelings or opinions).

2. Who is affected/influenced by this issue?

-Cite specific social classes, gender, races, age groups, regions of the world, etc.

-Be sure to include all viewpoints/perspectives of the issue and provide balanced information

3. How do each of the three major Sociological Perspectives view your topic and your topic's impact on society?

-Include how the Functionalist, Conflict & Symbolic Interactionist Perspectives view your topic.

4. Why is this a significant issue in society today (or if you're researching a past event, why was it significant in the past)?

5. Why did you select this topic?

The answers to questions #1-5 listed above are REQUIRED to be addressed in your presentation

If you would like to include additional information in your presentation, you may consider also addressing the following... (answering questions #6-8 are NOT required)

6. What can be done to solve/change this issue?

7. What do you anticipate happening in the future with regards to this social issue?

8. What are your personal feelings regarding this issue?

Citation of Sources

-Keep track of the sources that you utilize **AS YOU RESEARCH**. It is a lot easier to cite them as you go, versus having to go back and revisit each source again later.

Requirements for PRESENTATION:

You will be expected to put together a **4-5 minute presentation** to the class which gives an overview of your most relevant research. **You will need to include some form of visual aid and an audience participation component in your presentation.**

Visual Aid options: powerpoint, Prezi or imovie

Audience Participation examples: an interactive game or discussion questions

Citation of Sources: You should use MLA formatting throughout your presentation.

References: A minimum of 8 sources are required to be read while you are researching. You will need at least 6 PRINT sources (so at least 6 out of 8 sources need to be print) - i.e. magazines, books, newspapers and journals. Your sources will be evaluated, in part, to see if they represent a "balance" of types.

All sources obtained from the LSW Media Center Online Databases WILL BE COUNTED AS PRINT SOURCES, even though you obtained the digital version of it.

Websites are not print sources. Wikipedia is not a valid reference for this research project.

YOU WILL BE EXPECTED TO USE INFORMATION FROM (PARANTHETICALLY CITE) AT LEAST 4 OF YOUR 8 SOURCES WITHIN YOUR PRESENTATION.

DEVELOPING A THESIS STATEMENT

What is a thesis statement?

A thesis statement . . .

- Makes an argumentative assertion about a topic; it states the conclusions that you have reached about your topic.
- Makes a promise to the audience about the scope, purpose, and direction of your paper.
- Is focused and specific enough to be "proven" within the boundaries of your paper.
- Is generally located near the end of the introduction in the first paragraph.
- Identifies the relationships between the pieces of evidence that you are using to support your argument.

Sometimes you won't be able to find a focus or identify your "spin" or specific argument immediately. Like some writers, you might begin with a purpose statement just to get yourself going. A purpose statement is one or more sentences that announce your topic and indicate the structure of the paper but do not state the conclusions you have drawn. Thus, you might begin with something like this:

This paper will look at modern language to see if it reflects male dominance or female oppression.

OR

I plan to analyze anger and derision in offensive language to see if they represent a challenge of society's authority.

At some point, you can turn a purpose statement into a thesis statement. As you think and write about your topic, you can restrict, clarify, and refine your argument, crafting your thesis statement to reflect your thinking.

REMEMBER, A PURPOSE STATEMENT IS NOT A THESIS STATEMENT!

Your thesis should follow a general 3 or 4 part thesis format. You should have a purpose statement, which describes the overall goal or theme of your presentation. It should then be followed with 3 or 4 pieces of evidence you will use to support your purpose statement. Your thesis statement may be one, two, or more sentences depending on your writing style. An example is listed below:

While pizza is something we all enjoy, it is undoubtedly the world's greatest food. The combination of multiple food groups, the wide variety of toppings and sauces, as well as the wide availability of pizza worldwide, all contribute to making pizza the world's top food.

Your thesis statement: _____

Reread your thesis statement and make sure that your thesis meets the following criteria...

Does the thesis statement have a clear purpose statement, which makes it clear what the major goal or theme of the presentation will be?

☐ YES

☐ YES, BUT NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

☐ NO

Are there at least three supporting pieces of evidence in the thesis, which support the main purpose statement?

☐ YES

☐ YES, BUT NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

☐ NO

Is the thesis worded in a way which appears professional, is clear and easy to understand, and avoids statements/words such as "I", "You", "We", "In this presentation", etc.?

☐ YES

☐ YES, BUT NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

☐ NO

RESEARCH PROJECT GRADING RUBRIC

Your Name: _____

Topic: _____

Address	SA: Strongly Agree	A: Agree	D: Disagree	SD: Strongly Disagree	DNA: Did Not
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The thesis statement clearly identifies the topic being researched. It does not include "I", "We", "You", etc.
☐ SA-10 pts. ☐ A-7 pts. ☐ D-4 pts. ☐ SD-1 pt. ☐ DNA-0 pts.

The author clearly identifies and explains what impact this topic has (or had) on society?
☐ SA-10 pts. ☐ A-7 pts. ☐ D-4 pts. ☐ SD-1 pt. ☐ DNA-0 pts.

The author clearly addresses the question of who is affected by this issue?
☐ SA-5 pts. ☐ A-4 pts. ☐ D-3 pts. ☐ SD-1 pt. ☐ DNA-0 pts.

The author clearly addresses how the Functionalist Perspective views the topic and the topic's impact on society.
☐ SA-5 pts. ☐ A-4 pts. ☐ D-3 pts. ☐ SD-1 pt. ☐ DNA-0 pts.

The author clearly addresses how the Conflict Perspective views the topic and the topic's impact on society.
☐ SA-5 pts. ☐ A-4 pts. ☐ D-3 pts. ☐ SD-1 pt. ☐ DNA-0 pts.

The author clearly addresses how the Symbolic Interactionist Perspective views the topic and the topic's impact on society.
☐ SA-5 pts. ☐ A-4 pts. ☐ D-3 pts. ☐ SD-1 pt. ☐ DNA-0 pts.

The author specifically discusses why this topic is a significant issue in society today?
☐ SA-5 pts. ☐ A-4 pts. ☐ D-3 pts. ☐ SD-1 pt. ☐ DNA-0 pts.

The author clearly identifies why they selected this topic.
☐ SA-5 pts. ☐ A-4 pts. ☐ D-3 pts. ☐ SD-1 pt. ☐ DNA-0 pts.

Information is presented from all sides of this issue, is balanced, well organized, and easy to understand.
☐ SA-5 pts. ☐ A-4 pts. ☐ D-3 pts. ☐ SD-1 pt. ☐ DNA-0 pts.

The author uses proper APA citation for all sources cited and provided a detailed annotated bibliography.
☐ SA-10 pts. ☐ A-7 pts. ☐ D-4 pts. ☐ SD-1 pt. ☐ DNA-0 pts.

The author has ALL material cited that is not their own individual thoughts or "common knowledge"?
☐ SA-10 pts. ☐ A-7 pts. ☐ D-4 pts. ☐ SD-1 pt. ☐ DNA-0 pts.

The author exhibited correct use of wording, paragraph & sentence structure (grammatical guidelines followed, no errors)
☐ SA-5 pts. ☐ A-4 pts. ☐ D-3 pts. ☐ SD-1 pt. ☐ DNA-0 pts.

Interactive activity was relevant to the presentation.
☐ SA-5 pts. ☐ A-4 pts. ☐ D-3 pts. ☐ SD-1 pt. ☐ DNA-0 pts.

Presenter is knowledgeable about the topic, exhibited that extensive research was done on the project
☐ SA-10 pts. ☐ A-7 pts. ☐ D-4 pts. ☐ SD-1 pt. ☐ DNA-0 pts.

Presentation was informative, organized, between 5-7 minutes in length.
☐ 4-5 mins. -10 pts. ☐ 3+ min. -5 pts. ☐ 2+ mins. -3 pts. ☐ under 2 mins. -1 pt.
 Time of Presentation: _____

BONUS (Thesis, Annotated Bib, Presentation Turned in on by 3:15p on 02.18.14): ☐ 10 pts.

RESEARCH PROJECT TOTAL: _____/105 POINTS

Presentation Comments: