RESEARCH PAPER

DIRECTIONS FOR RESEARCH PAPER

1. Select a sociological issue from the topics discussed in class, or from a Sociology in the News article.
2. Find a total of three articles: two articles from The New York Times and one article from a social science journal (i.e. The American Sociological Review, The Journal of Family Issues, etc). These articles cannot be ones that were assigned on the syllabus or Blackboard.
3. Your paper should answer the following questions:
   1. What is the general topic that this paper is addressing?
   2. What is/are the author(s) hypothesis/hypotheses?
   3. What is/are the major conclusions(s) drawn by the author(s)? What do the results mean for the “real world”/how do they apply to you and me?
4. Relate the two newspaper articles to the article from the social science journal. The newspaper articles can either support the findings in the social science journal, or it can disagree with its findings.
5. You do not need to attach copies of your three articles to your papers. Be certain, however, to provide full citations to them. (ASA citation)
6. Select one of the sociological perspectives: Functionalism, Conflict Theory, and Symbolic Interactionism. Interpret the issue from this perspective. Your interpretation should reflect what you have learned from the readings. Also, be specific about which sociological perspective you are using in your paper (e.g., "I will use the Symbolic Interactionist perspective to explain....").
7. The final draft of the paper must be between 3 and 5 pages in length.

WRITING INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESEARCH PAPER:
Please follow these instructions carefully. Failure to do so will result in points being deducted from your written assignment.

FORMAT

- The paper should be between 3 and 5 pages in length, typed, double-spaced.
- The paper should have a cover page with your name, the title of your paper, the date, and the name of the course.
- The paper should have 1" margins all around.
- The type font should be Times New Roman, size 12.
- All text other than references should be double-spaced; type references in single space.
- All pages except the cover page should be numbered (center, bottom).
The references should be listed on a separate page from the text. These can be listed on Page #6.

**ORGANIZATION**

- Begin with an introductory paragraph that introduces your topic.
  
  Example: The legalization of same sex marriage has a major impact on society because …

- Summarize the hypothesis/hypotheses of the article in the social science journal.

  Example: Rebecca Hill found in her study of divorce that…

- What is/are the major conclusion(s) drawn by the author(s)?
- What do the results mean for the “real world” and how do they apply to society?
- Interpret the social problem from a sociological perspective.
- End with a concluding paragraph that summarizes what you wrote.

  Example: Although divorce is a problem faced by many Americans, research indicates that we can address the problems of increasingly fragmented families…

- Please provide a cover page that has your name, the date, and the title of your paper (ex. “The Effects of Divorce on the American Family”)

**CITATIONS/QUOTATIONS WITHIN THE PAPER**

Direct quotations should be placed in quotation marks; indent lengthy quotations. Make sure to follow a quote or a piece of information that you learned from the article by following citing the source by the last name and the year the article was written at the end of the sentence.

Ex. The researchers found that divorce rates have actually been on the decrease for the past five years (Smith 2015).

**WORKS CITED PAGE/BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**NOTE:** Written work for this course must use the ASA (American Sociological Association) citation style:

1. The first line of each citation begins flush left. The second and subsequent lines are indented three spaces. This is called a “hanging indent”.
2. The list should be arranged alphabetically by the author’s last name. Include the first name and last names for all authors.
3. Invert the author’s name. If there are two or more authors invert only the first author’s name.

4. If the source does not have an author, alphabetization is by the first word in the title.
5. Arrange multiple items by the same author in order by year of publication, oldest date first.
6. In other words, DO NOT just copy and paste the URL of the websites where the article from the social science journal or newspaper articles are found. You must follow the following rules for citing your sources:

ARTICLE FROM A SOCIAL SCIENCE JOURNAL

· Titles of journals are italicized. Titles of articles are in quotation marks.
· All important words in article title are capitalized.

One or more authors


Articles from Magazines and Newspapers


SUBMISSIONS
Please submit your written assignment on Blackboard by the due date by the beginning of class. The papers must be in Microsoft Word format for the IBM-compatible computer (PC). Late submissions or papers not submitted in the proper format will be penalized according to the time overdue. Expect to lose a point for every day that the assignment is late or not in the correct format.
EXAMPLE OF A WORKS CITED PAGE

Student Name

Topic: The Impact of Teen Drug Abuse

Works Cited

Author1 (last name first), Author2 (last name last. Year of publication. "Article title." Journal Title Vol#(iss#):Page#. Retrieved October 30, 2015 (http://www.website info.html).


http://www.articlehomepage.com/full/url/