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Introduction to Sociology Group Research Project

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Group Research Project

This Group Research Project is designed to give students the opportunity to learn how to work with a group or team by working together to research and present a topic that is related to Sociological Research. Together each group will work on investigating real world problems from the eyes of Sociologists. Each group member will use newspaper articles as your research bank to understand issues in our society. This project will count toward twenty percent of your overall Final Grade for the course. The grading will be broken down by the following project activities:

- Group Research Topic Selection 25%
- Group Role Designation 25%
- Group Article Summary 25%
- Group Bibliography 25%
- Group's Final Presentation 25%

The following is an outline of the expectations of each students' participation in the group work over the course of the class. Included in this outline is a schedule of when your group will meet during class time a total of five times during the class. The meeting times are noted in the schedule below.

During the designated class meeting times, students will breakup into their assigned groups and discuss your progress. In addition to class time, each group will have a designated space in our course's Blackboard page titled "Group Research Project Discussion Board Link". This space is document sharing and the uploading of your group's project activities.

All this information, including the schedule will be outlined in our course's Blackboard site, in the left-hand menu titled "Group Research Project Instructions".

First Group Meeting During Week Two

In this meeting

Step One

Meet and introduce yourselves to each other

Step Two

Discuss and decide who in your group will hold the following member roles and then post the students' name who will have play each of these roles in your group's Discussion Board labeled "Group Roles"

- Group Facilitator or Leader can be one student, or you can take turns making sure that all your group members are actively participating and making sure that everyone sticks to the schedule.
- Group Recorder this responsibility can be shared too sure that everyone's ideas are heard and recorded in discussion board and in the Final Presentation.
- Group Editor, this student's responsibility is to make sure that all the citations of the articles are correct. As well as making sure that all students posted a summary of the articles that they shared and are being used for your final research presentation.
- *Optional Role*: Group artist, this student will be responsible for creative touches to your final presentation, depending on the format you choose.



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- Group Timekeeper, this student will make sure that all the deadlines are being met.
- Group Presenter, this student will present the final presentation of your group's research.

Step Three

Ask each other questions about what topics you are interested in learning about.

For example:

- What are you curious about?
- Who or what do you want to know?
- What topics do you want to learn about?

Step Four

Discuss and decide a topic that you and your group would like to select.

Homework Assignment due by Second Group Meeting

Step One

Each student is responsible to find an initial newspaper article that discusses the topic that your group has selected.

Step Two

Begin your individual research by visiting The New York Times Website (<https://www.nytimes.com/>) and use your Student Access that you activated at the beginning of the course to look for article(s) that are related to your topic of interest.

- On The New York Times website click the magnifying glass and type in the topic terms to find your articles.

Step Three

Once you found an article that you like read it and answer the following questions.

- What or who is this article about?
- How does this article relate to our class and sociology?
- What are two things that you learned from this article?
- What are two things that you found interesting in this article?

Step Four

After you have all read your article and answered these questions. Post your summary and like to the article in your group's Discussion Board in Blackboard.

Second Group Meeting During Week Four

In this meeting

Step One

Discuss and decide the type of final presentation style your group wants to do.

- The options you can choose from can be simple or complex
 - PowerPoint Presentation (between five to ten minutes long, and a minimum of five slides)
 - Formal research paper (about five pages)



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- Video (documentary style) (between five to ten minutes long)

Step Two

Discuss with each other which articles you have read and further discuss your topic.

- Do the articles that we have answer the questions that we are curious about?
- Are there connections between the articles that we all choose?
- Is this related to topics that we have or will discuss in class?

Step Three

Construct a Hypothesis for your research project

- What initial assumptions or general ideas do you have about your why your topic is important to know about?
- Discuss the cause or change of why this topic is an important issue and why it is happening.
- Discuss the effect of change that this topic or issues has caused to happen.

Third Group Meeting During Week Six

In this Meeting

Step One

Test your hypothesis and begin drafting your group's presentation.

- To test your hypothesis, by stating if the articles that your group has found proves or disproves your hypothesis.
- Discuss your group members' progress and begin drafting your group's presentation.

Fourth Group Meeting During Week Ten

In this Meeting

Step One

- Group Editor collect a bibliography of the articles being used for this project.
 - Group Editor share this bibliography in your group's Discussion Board on Blackboard.

Step Two

- Group Facilitator and Group Recorder should check in with all members to see if anyone have any questions that you can help them out figure out?

Step Three

- Analyze your findings from your group's research.
 - Where you and your group surprised about what you found?
 - What conclusions did you find that answered your initial questions and was your hypothesis accurate?

Step Four

- Continue to work on your draft or final version of your group's presentation



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Fifth Group Meeting During Week Thirteen

In this Meeting

Step One

- Use this time to check in with each other on the progress of completing and preparing the group's final presentation.

Step Two

- As you work to complete your Final Presentation discuss:
- What you found most surprising about your group's research.
- How does this relate to topics that we discussed in class?
- Does it relate to issues that a sociologist would be interested in researching?
- What are the correlations and conclusions that your research gives your group?
- What did you learn from this project?

Step Three

- Finalize your Group's Final Presentation

Final Presentations During Week Fourteen

Each Group Presenter will present their group's Final Presentations

