**Social Issues PBL**

**Introduction**

**The two-part assignment provides you with the opportunity to relate real life matters to the ideas and techniques discussed in the classroom lectures. The assignment is designed to follow the tasks required**

**of skilled sociologists as closely as possible. The assignment asks you to examine social problems from a sociological perspective and suggest policies for modifying the negative aspects of social problems. It is**

**expected that throughout this assignment you will learn to evaluate, gather understanding and recognize social problems from a broad perspective.**

**The project is broken down into 2 parts. Both parts will be graded equally. (Rubrics provided)**

**Project Part 1**

**Please select a topic covering a social subject (think sociologically!). You are free to select your own topic, which you are interested in exploring further. It is important to use the readings and the library data as a starting point for exploring your topic of special interest.**

**1. Be specific when selecting your topic.**

**Some examples: Ways technology has affected …**

**Gender and technology (ex: how ideas of gender and sexual identity are implanted in technological artifacts)**

**Education**

**Virtual engagement**

**Health**

**Social interaction**

**Music**

**Religion**

**Family**

**You can find many other Sociological Issues with the following Links:**

[**Library Research Links**](https://www.jacksonsd.org/Page/6565)

**2. You will be split into groups of 2 people.**

**3. Select at least 2 articles from the popular press (web, magazines, and**

**newspapers) and at least 2 articles from a social science journal for your literature review on the selected topic.**

**Your research will be presented in class and submitted in writing by email (Please attach your literature review and the outline of the second part of the project in an email to me. No hard**

**copies will be collected).**

**4. Directions for Part 1 of the Assignment:**

**1. A** [**research question**](https://writingcenter.gmu.edu/guides/how-to-write-a-research-question) **(should come from the Issue you choose)**

**2. A statement of why your research question is important**

**3. A literature review of relevant social scientific literature**

**4. A discussion of the significance of the analysis including general conclusions.**

**5. A bibliography of works cited**

 **Write a brief review of each of the four articles**

 **Provide full citations for the articles**

 **Interpret the social problem from a selected sociological perspective**

 **Furthermore, be specific in your explanation: what did you learn from each reading and which sociological perspective you are using.**

 **Suggest a social policy/Policies to improve the social problem**

 **During the presentation of the video or Infographics, the student will**

**not read from the paper. S/he is expected to summarize key issues and should be ready to lead a discussion on the topic. A brief, informative, workshop-style presentation on the topic of your paper to your classmates is expected.**

**6. Due Date: Presentation dates will be announced. Your group will be committed to completing the presentation on that date.**

**NOTE: Many sources can be found online, but not all are acceptable to use as sources in your academic career. If you are not sure as to whether or not a website you found is a reliable source, send me an email with the URL and I will check it out for you as soon as I can.**

**Project Part 2**

**For this part 2, you will develop a video presentation or an infographic of the topic you selected in part one. The video or infographic has to be uploaded on** [**http://www.youtube.com/**](http://www.youtube.com/) **or** [**https://www.buzzfeed.com/**](https://www.buzzfeed.com/) **(or any other server) and the link to the presentation has to be given to me.**

**Your group will be committed to completing the presentation on the date announce in class.**

**Your video or infographic should demonstrate the following:**

**The key aspects of your topic**

**An authentic application(Suggested Social Policy) of your topic**

**A strong research base for your topic**

**Sharing the insight you gained from having read related material**

**An organized presentation that follows good visual design principles**

**Your short video (a five- to six-minute) may focus on any aspect of sociology that you find timely and interesting.**

**For the infographic: highlights statistics that will seize people’s attention**

**Tell the basic story of your topic**

**Present visual data narratively**

**Use color in a meaningful way**

**Media Tools**

**❖ YouTube Free Video Editor:** [**https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/4522397?rd=1**](https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/4522397?rd=1)

**YouTube instructions "how to upload video on YouTube "**

[**http://youtu.be/Hlxqk0iHp5w**](http://youtu.be/Hlxqk0iHp5w)

**❖** [**https://support.google.com/youtube/troubleshooter/2888402?hl=en**](https://support.google.com/youtube/troubleshooter/2888402?hl=en)

**❖ YouTube Forum:** [**https://productforums.google.com/forum/#!forum/youtube**](https://productforums.google.com/forum/#!forum/youtube)

**❖ Movie Maker - Microsoft Windows (Free)**

[**http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-live/movie-maker#t1=overview**](http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-live/movie-maker#t1=overview)

**❖ “Six Easy Ways for Students to Create Videos Online”**

[**(http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2009/11/six-easy-ways-for-students-to-create.html)**](http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2009/11/six-easy-ways-for-students-to-create.html%29)

**❖ Prezi - Presentation Software** [**http://prezi.com/**](http://prezi.com/)

**❖ POWTOON** [**http://www.powtoon.com/**](http://www.powtoon.com/)

**❖ “Tools for Creating Infographics”** [**(http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2013/12/fivegood-online-tools-for-creating.html)**](http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2013/12/fivegood-online-tools-for-creating.html%29)

**❖ Free tools for creating infographics:** [**http://www.creativebloq.com/infographic/tools2131971**](http://www.creativebloq.com/infographic/tools2131971)

[**http://www.edudemic.com/diy-infographics/**](http://www.creativebloq.com/infographic/tools2131971)

[**https://piktochart.com/formats/infographics/**](https://piktochart.com/formats/infographics/)

[**https://www.canva.com/create/infographics/**](https://www.canva.com/create/infographics/)

**Some additional tools for creating infographics:**

**easel.ly (template based online infographics maker)**

**Piktochart (6 free themes that are editable)**

**Dipity (for timelines)**

**Infogr.am (online infographics maker, most useful if you have numerical data)**

**Tableau (online data visualization tool, you would need numerical data to use)**

**Wordle (generates word clouds)**

**WorldMapper (maps of the world resized by subjects of interest)**

**Lucid Chart (Chrome app, use with googledrive and generate flow charts)**

**Social Issues PBL**

**When selecting a topic, consider the following questions: Why you want to explore this topic?; What information do you need to collect?; How do you plan on collecting the data and which sources will you use?; Why is this topic important to you?; What have you learned from each reading and which sociological perspective are you are using?; and What will you suggest as a social policy to improve the social problem you are investigating?**

[**Rubric for Writing Assignment**](http://orithirsh.weebly.com/uploads/5/6/7/5/5675213/soc31rubric.pdf)

[**Rubric for Infographics and Video**](https://orithirsh.weebly.com/uploads/5/6/7/5/5675213/rubric_assignment.pdf)

[**Six Easy Ways for Students to Create Videos Online**](https://www.pinterest.com/pin/187603140698334812/)

[**Tools for Creating Infographics**](https://www.creativebloq.com/infographic/tools-2131971)

[**How to Create a Video from a PowerPoint 2013 Presentation**](https://www.dummies.com/software/microsoft-office-for-mac/powerpoint-for-mac/how-to-create-a-video-from-a-powerpoint-2013-presentation/)

[**Great Sociology Research Topics**](https://owlcation.com/social-sciences/Great-Sociology-Research-Topics)

[**Primary sources in your students' hands**](http://www.loc.gov/teachers/student-discovery-sets/)