Introduction to Sociology

Research Assignment: How to Do Research a Social Sciences Essay

Due in Class on Oct 31, 2017

Aim of the assignment:

This assignment is designed to teach you “the basics” on how to do research for a social sciences essay. This exercise will introduce you to the research procedures that you will need in the future to find scholarly sources to support your arguments in a sociological essay. It will also teach you how to properly format your bibliography.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU ATTEND THE LECTURE ON OCT 17, TO DO WELL ON THIS ASSIGNMENT AND THE ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY ASSIGNMENT (due Dec 5)!

You will choose one topic out of ten possible choices and then proceed to research that topic as if you were preparing to write a sociological essay (you DO NOT actually have to write the essay!)

Your task is to find 10 scholarly, peer reviewed sources, in full text and retrievable in hard copy in our Library, and prepare a bibliography.

Content:

Choose ONE TOPIC from this list:

1. Class stratification
2. Religion
3. Bureaucracies
4. The Self
5. Social interaction
6. Deviance
7. Race and Ethnicity
8. Gender

A) These sources can be books or journal articles. For a later assignment, the annotated bibliography, due on Dec 5th, you will actually analyze 3 of these articles. This is why it is important that you find scholarly, peer reviewed sources that are retrievable in FULL TEXT and HARD COPY.

B) 2 of these sources have to be classic sociological sources, authored by the original Sociologists that first and most famously wrote on the topic. For example,
if you were writing an essay on SUICIDE, a classic author on the topic would be Emile Durkheim. You can find the classic authors on all the topics listed above in your text book; most of these authors wrote in the last century, they are already dead, and therefore the majority of their works will be published in books, not modern journal articles!

C) 8 of these sources have to be contemporary sociological sources; these can be sociological scholarly books or journal articles; make sure that these articles and books are no more than 15 years old! To ensure that these articles are topical and sociological, make sure that the journal you have chosen is sociological, and that the title of the article reflects your topic!

D) You are NOT ALLOWED to use WEBSITES as scholarly sources!

Formatting your bibliography:

To format your bibliography, use this style guide (American Sociological Association or ASA):

https://www.google.ca/search?source=hp&q=asa+style+citation&oq=ASA+style+&gs_l=psy-ab.1.1.0i10.48819.50914.0.53542.11.10.0.0.0.0.201.1553.0j9j1.10.0....0...1.1.64.psy-ab.1.10.1544.0..35i39k1j0i131k1.0.SAAyMK70pHQ

This is how you list a book with one author:


This is how you list a book two or multiple (the last person listed -> first, then last name):


This is how you list a Journal Article with one author:


This is how you list a Journal Article with multiple authors (the last person listed -> first, then last name):

CHECKLIST for FORMAT

Before handing your work in, use this checklist to ensure you have formatted your work correctly and you have completed each of these steps:

This assignment should fit on one page
Write in the font “Times New Roman”, size 12.
MAKE SURE you are using ASA citation style!
At the top of your page write the following heading:

Research Assignment on (Topic of Choice, i.e. THE SELF*)
90:154 – Introduction to Sociology
Prof. Petrella
Your name
Your student number
The date it is due, Oct 31, 2017

Divide your bibliography into TWO sections, Classical Sources and Contemporary Sources
All authors in both sections need to be listed in alphabetical order, using the family name of the author.
Hand in the hard copy in class, or in my mailbox in the arts office on Oct 31, 2017
Email an electronic copy by 4.30 PM on Oct 31, 2017 to petrellas@brandonu.ca