

FINAL PAPER: A SOCIOLOGICAL REPORT

Length: 5-6 pages. Papers must be typed or computer-printed.

Weight: 20% of final grade

Due: Wednesday, May 7

Purpose: To apply sociological theory to professional sociological practice.

Assignment: Imagine that you are a consultant who has been called upon to design a program or structure an intervention to deal with a pressing social problem.

Prepare a report that will give your clients a sociological understanding of the problem and specific suggestions for appropriate policies and/or intervention strategies for a problem of your own choosing.

In your analysis, be sure to critique at least one theory which is not fully adequate for understanding and dealing with this problem, pointing out its shortcomings. Then apply the work of at least two theories/theorists to developing an appropriate understanding of the problem. Finally, propose solutions or interventions that flow from the theory.

Note: Since the assumed target audience is sociologically naïve, be sure you explain the theories clearly and concisely, and be sure that you show how the analysis is connected to and justifies the proposed policies and/or interventions.

The report should include a 1-2 page Executive Summary at the front and an appendix with references at the back. Use running subheads to mark off major sections of the report.

Evaluation: This assignment will be evaluated, in general, on the extent to which you are able to state the theories accurately and clearly and the appropriateness of the application of these theories to a contemporary social problem.