

Essay Proposal Assignment

Distributed: Monday 21 October

Due: Tuesday 12 November at 8:00am

Worth: 20% of overall course grade

Late penalty: 2 marks (out of 20) / day

For this assignment you are required to formulate a sociological query and undertake a literature review of the topic. You are, essentially, writing a proposal for a hypothetical twenty-page essay that you might submit in some future sociology course.

Your actual submission in this course must include these five components:

- 1) A title page with the name of the assignment, your name and student number, your professor's name, your TA's name, the course code and number, and your tutorial section number
- 2) A 400 – 500-word, essay-style frame of your 'research question' (double-spaced, 12-point, Times New Roman font). Here you must clearly frame your research question. In the first paragraph, present the topic that you are researching. In effect you are writing the introduction to a hypothetical major research paper. This should include a thesis statement or statement that clearly and concisely describes the focus of the paper. This thesis statement should be highlighted in **bold**. This frame should also clearly state the topic's sociological importance and timeliness, as well as include a reflexive statement (i.e., a declaration about your own interest in, and connection to, the topic). Your frame must clearly demonstrate that you have conducted research (i.e., that you read three scholarly sociological articles in their entirety) and that this research has informed your understanding of the topic and the framing of your project. In-text citations (not direct quotes!) are required, and must take the form of parenthetical notation.
- 3) Three to five descriptive headings and/or subheadings breaking down how this hypothetical major essay will be organised. A list of headings which consists of 'Introduction, Literature Review, Methodology, Findings, Conclusion' is not acceptable. The headings must encapsulate the subjects of the hypothetical sections of your essay. All together, these headings should give a clear understanding of the areas of knowledge you would draw upon to construct your essay.
- 4) An annotated bibliography which lists your three sources in APA citation format, and includes your 100-word annotation for each of them. You are required to find, read and annotate three recent pieces of sociological scholarship on the topic to inform your analysis. This must consist of three

articles found in three different peer-reviewed sociology journals published in 2024. For each article you must include full bibliographical information (APA style). Each of your annotations should be approximately 100-words and take the form of descriptive and evaluative paragraph(s) assessing the article's relevance and applicability to your specific project.

N.B. Do not simply 'copy and paste' source abstracts. You must read the three articles in their entirety, and then write annotations of them in your own words. Copying and pasting not only defeats the purpose of this component of the assignment, but is plagiarism and will be penalised as such.

5) Copies of the first page of each of your three chosen articles with the full abstracts clearly visible. **N.B.** Assignments submitted without these attachments will not be accepted and will be treated as late until you provide the missing pages.

Your assignment must be submitted as **both** an electronic copy and as a hardcopy. You must submit the completed assignment as a Word document through the site's Assessment > Assignments portal no later than 8:00am on Tuesday 12 November **and** bring a hardcopy to lecture that same day. (Please do not submit your hardcopy material in a binder, a staple is sufficient.) You must complete both components of this submission process. Failure to do so will result in your assignment being treated as late until such time as you complete both components.