

Short Writing Assignments: Analysis Papers
due Sundays at 5:00 pm to Canvas (9/23, 10/7, 10/21, 11/18, 12/2)

Details:

- Length: 2-3 double-spaced pages, or 500-750 words, not including the bibliography or headings
- The reading responses must be in essay form. This means they must have a thesis statement, be organized into coherent paragraphs, and be structured around your analyses of the readings.
 - Begin with an introduction and end with a conclusion.
- *Citations are required.* This will give you practice using citations for your Research Papers. Use parenthetical citations (author's last name plus year of publication) within the text of your response paper and include a brief bibliography at the end.
 - See the ASA style guide for more detail on how to do this correctly.
 - Visit PurdueOwl (online) for help and examples
- *Proof read* your papers for spelling, grammar, and organization.
- Upload your papers to Turnitin.com in .doc or .docx form. PDFs cannot be accepted.

Critical Reading: I encourage you to keep these questions in mind as you complete the readings for this course as they will help you contribute to discussion sections, and write your reading response:

- What is the thesis/argument of the reading?
- How does the author support their argument?
- What sociological concepts and type of analysis does the author engage? (macro vs. micro level, ethnographic, statistical, or historical, for example)?
- What types of sources, reasons or evidence does these author use?
- What conclusions does the author make?

Suggested Models: You do not *have* to take on any of these models, but if you are seeking guidance for how to write an analysis paper, consider these options:

Model 1, Arguments and Evidence: Focus on each of the readings for this week to answer the following questions:

- Is the author's argument convincing? Why? Why not?
- Were these the best type of sources for the topic and argument? Did the type of sources, or type of analysis, limit the support the author could offer for their argument?
- Can the conclusion be supported? Why? Why not?

Model 2, Summarizing debates: Incorporating *all* of the readings for this week:

- What common themes unite these articles?
- Do the articles support or contradict each other? How?
- What is one major point of contention between the articles?

Model 3, Identifying gaps: Drawing on *all* of the readings for this week:

- Bring the readings together in some way – draw comparisons, point out contrasting viewpoints
- Based on a close reading of the articles, what question(s) remain unanswered? What evidence would be required to answer them?
- Can you suggest ways to improve the authors' arguments, use of evidence, methods, or conclusion?

Grading Rubric

SOC 210 SW Assignment Rubric   		
Criteria	Ratings	Pts
<p>Course Material</p> <p>The writer includes two sources (minimum) from the course materials and integrates both sources into the analysis. The student demonstrates close reading and thorough understanding of the course material through their writing.</p>	<i>This area will be used by the assessor to leave comments related to this criterion.</i>	1.5 pts
<p>Analysis</p> <p>The writer analyzes and/or critiques the arguments presented in sources, demonstrating an in-depth understanding of sociological concepts/theories. Assertions are fully explained and well-supported with examples from the text(s). The writer presents evidence and examples to strengthen their own argument and support their own main points (textual evidence, quotes, theoretical examples, etc.) using strong logic and reasoning.</p>	<i>This area will be used by the assessor to leave comments related to this criterion.</i>	1.5 pts
<p>Structure</p> <p>The opening paragraph introduces the paper topic and includes the thesis statement. The thesis statement is clear and concisely previews the paper's body (1-2 sentences). Each body paragraph is focused around one specific idea that supports the thesis statement. Paragraphs use topic sentences to keep the paper organized. The conclusion summarizes the main ideas of the paper in an original way.</p>	<i>This area will be used by the assessor to leave comments related to this criterion.</i>	1.0 pts
<p>Style</p> <p>Paragraphs flow well together; the author uses transition language within and between paragraphs. The writing is academic (generally 3rd person, except for personal examples or specific circumstances), clear and concise. There is little redundancy with deliberate and diverse word choices. The essay is largely free of grammar, spelling or mechanical errors. The student follows the assignment formatting (page numbers, double-spaced, 12 pt. font). The writer uses proper American Sociological Association (ASA) citation formate, in-text and in references list.</p>	<i>This area will be used by the assessor to leave comments related to this criterion.</i>	1.0 pts
Total Points: 5.0		