

In this assignment, you will choose a topic that interests you and analyze it from a sociological perspective. Possible topics include culture, group life, deviance, race, gender, family life, hobbies, sports and recreation, music, health and wellness, etc. You will write a 5 page essay on the topic of your choice following the format below. The essay should be typed, double-spaced, 12-point font, 1-inch margins, stapled, and in APA or ASA formatting style. You are allowed to include the textbook for this assignment but are expected to include other sources. Academic sources should include at least three peer-reviewed articles (each article should not exceed 10 pages) from social science journals such as those located in the GGC library's databases. Articles from The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, AJC.com, or those found on LexisNexis may provide information on the local aspects of your topic but are not a substitute for peer-reviewed articles.

Research Paper Outline:

- I. Cover Page – 5 points
 - A. Title of Essay
 - B. Your Name
 - C. Course Name and Number (i.e. Introduction to Sociology 1101)
 - D. Date
- II. Introduction – 20 points
 - A. Introduce the topic you chose
 - B. Explain why it is an important topic to analyze from a sociological perspective
- III. Literature review – 20 points
 - A. Discuss what other sociologists have to say about your topic, this is where your peer-review articles will come in
- IV. Define your topic from at least **one** of the three theoretical perspectives listed below – 20 points
 - A. Conflict Theory
 - B. Structural Functionalism
 - C. Symbolic Interactionism
- V. Conclusion – 20 points
 - A. Provide concluding remarks
 - B. Summarize the main points of your paper
 - C. Provide closing statements on your topic and its importance
- VI. References – 15 points
 - A. List all references cited following ASA formatting style (A quick reference guide for ASA formatting can be found at http://www.asanet.org/documents/teaching/pdfs/Quick_Tips_for_ASA_Style.pdf)