Disconnect Paper

Sociology 167: Virtual Communities/Social Media

Suggestions

As you start working on your paper, here are some things to think about:

1) Carefully read the assignment, identify the key steps involved, and undertake the experiment

- ☐ You are being asked to conduct an **experiment**—disconnecting from digital technology for 24 hours. What does this entail?
  - ☐ **Choose the 24 hour time period** for your experiment

- ☐ **Make note of the readings** you are being asked to engage with for this paper
  - ☐ **Re-read and take notes** on these texts, focusing on the concepts and theories you might utilize

- ☐ Keep a **detailed journal** during the experiment (this will be your data)
  - ☐ Your feelings
  - ☐ Any disruptions to your daily life
  - ☐ The reactions of others
  - ☐ How many times you reach for a device
  - ☐ What you are going to the device for
  - ☐ Impact on interactions with others
  - ☐ How you are spending your time instead of engaging with digital tech
  - ☐ What are the positive and negative consequences?

2) Preparing to write your paper

- [ ] Look over your detailed journal and **identify patterns and themes**

- [ ] **Review the course texts** for sociological concepts, theories, and ideas that would explain these patterns and themes. What might be useful?

- [ ] Take notes on **how these concepts connect to your data**

- [ ] Write a **draft of your definition and discussion of the concepts/ theories/ideas** in your own words

- [ ] Write a draft of **how these concepts/theories/ideas explain the experiences** you had during the experiment
    - [ ] Ex: Concept X helps me make sense of why I felt Y
        - [ ] Lupton's concept of the "digital cyborg assemblage" provides insights into the difficulties I faced disconnecting because…

- [ ] Create an **outline** for the paper starting with a basic structure, adding more and more detail each time you go through it. What do you need for each section?
    - [ ] Introduction
    - [ ] Discussion
    - [ ] Analysis
    - [ ] Conclusion

- [ ] Look over the **feedback** you received on the norm-breaking paper
    - [ ] What feedback did you receive about definitions and explanations of concepts?
    - [ ] What feedback did you receive about applying these concepts in your analysis?

Checklist for Paper

- [ ] **Introduction**
  - [ ] Briefly describe the disconnect experiment
  - [ ] Make an argument (thesis) that reflects the insights you gained into your experiences/feelings during the disconnect

- [ ] **Discussion**
  - [ ] Discuss feelings and experiences before, during, and/or after disconnecting
  - [ ] If relevant, discuss reactions of others
  - [ ] Account for any failure to stay disconnected for the full 24 hours

- [ ] **Analysis (most important section-bulk of your paper ~ 2 pages)**
  - [ ] Draw upon at least one course reading from the list
  - [ ] First, clearly define and discuss concepts/theories/ideas in your own words
  - [ ] Then, explicitly tie concepts/theories to "data" (experiences)
    - [ ] Provide an explanation for, or insight into, your experience using sociological concepts/ideas/theories
  - [ ] Analysis is not personal opinion or focused on individual/psychological explanations

- [ ] **Conclusion**
  - [ ] Briefly sum up the experiment and what you learned

- [ ] **Mechanics**
  - [ ] Does not exceed 4 pages double-spaced
  - [ ] Pages are numbered
  - [ ] Has proper in-text citations and bibliography in ASA format
  - [ ] 12-point Times New Roman font with 1 inch margins
  - [ ] Is your own, original work
  - [ ] Concepts/theories/ideas defined & explained in your own words
  - [ ] Does not rely upon lecture for analysis