

GUIDELINES FOR SCHOLARLY PROJECT, SOCIOLOGY 355

Overview

Students should pick a geographical entity (e.g., state, city, county, including DC, Puerto Rico, and Guam, or the U.S. as a whole) that they are interested in or familiar with. It is important to decide as soon as possible to begin searching for data sources and compiling these data for the demographic profile. You may choose an international entity, but the data are usually much more scarce. The objectives of the project are to:

- (a) Gather demographic data for your geo entity.
- (b) Analyze changes over time in the demography of that geo entity.
- (c) Relate demographic changes to specific demographic, social, economic, political, and environmental changes that are occurring in that geo entity. What are the causes and effects?
- (d) If warranted, relate these socio-demographic changes of the geo entity to changes occurring in the state or U.S.

Instructions

The assignment is to write a 15-page paper (typed, double-spaced) using the questions below as guidelines—they are just suggestions and not requirements. Your paper should include graphs, tables, figures, and/or pictures. The format of the references must be in ASA style (guidelines on D2L). Do not try to address every question below. Some may be unanswerable or irrelevant for your geo entity and you may think of others that seem better. In deciding which issues to focus upon, try to capture those which best describe the dominant changes experienced by the geo entity. Here are some past questions addressed: this list is not exhaustive and you should not try to address all these topics.

1. Describe the history of population growth or decline over time, leading to the current demographic situation. What is the current population, and how has the population grown or declined over time? What is the current rate of growth or decline? What social, economic, and geographic factors have led to this growth? What are the consequences?
2. What are the patterns of migration and/or immigration, especially race- and age-specific migration? What factors best explain these migration/immigration patterns? How has the racial composition changed? How has the age composition changed?
3. How have demographic trends affected environmental quality and issues?
4. What is the number and proportion of older people in the population, and how have those figures been changing over time? What effect does the aging population have on the geo entity?
5. What have been the changes between two recent dates in the sizes of the rural and urban populations? What are the long-run historical changes in the percent urban? What are the social, cultural, and economic causes of the declining rural population? What are the effects for the geo entity?
6. Describe the trends over time in family and household structure. How do the population characteristics of women compare with those of men? Have there been recent changes in education and labor force participation rates?

DUE DATE: April 23, 2018 by 5 PM in the D2L Assignment folder "PROJECT."