

SOC 270 Journal Guidelines & Grading Rubric

Each week, you are required to write a journal that connects to the course materials in the Healey textbook by completing a mini-assignment such as taking an online quiz, interviewing others in your life, or doing online research. The assignments are structured to connect your personal experiences to a deeper understanding of racial and ethnic relations concepts. Some of the assignments may present alternate perspectives and ideas about your own understanding of race and ethnicity in society, and you will be encouraged to analyze ideas from multiple perspectives to gain a broader framework of the concepts and how they relate to real world situations.

Note that during two of the weeks, you will be required to interview people who are in similar and different racial categories than you. You may want to look ahead at the upcoming journal assignment prompts in the week folders so you can begin finding people to contact for the short interviews. These topics touch on sensitive issues, so please keep that in mind while you prepare for your journal assignments.

This is required during each assigned journal:

During each week, a journal prompt is listed near the bottom of the week page with specific instructions on how to complete the assignment. Read the prompt, do the assignment tasks, answer the questions posed in a Word document, and upload the document to the journal assignment link by the deadline. Each journal assignment should be at least 400 words and must paraphrase and cite the textbook materials at least three times throughout.

Citing sources in your journals: Cite materials from the relevant textbook chapter(s) using APA format for in-text citations. **Distinguished journals do not use direct quotes (you will not earn full points if you use straight quotes from the text or other course materials!),** as these take away from the focus on your ability to synthesize and show that you understand the course materials. Rather, **paraphrase and cite the source in parentheses** in the sentence where you use the information. For instance:

Healey and Stepnick explain that race is an ascribed status, which means it is involuntary, assigned at birth, and membership in the ascribed category is difficult to change (2017, p. 13).

According to "The Social Construction of Race" lecture, the social meaning we place on skin color is more important than biological differences, and the social importance can change which means race is a socially constructed concept (Harrison, n.d.).

While APA formatting does not require the use of page numbers when paraphrasing, it is helpful if you include them. Author and year are always required for in-text citations; page numbers are not required unless you use a direct quote. See the information in the Project Guidelines section for more helpful guidelines on APA formatting, and use this helpful resource: Purdue OWL website - <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/03/>

You do not need to include a reference list at the end of your journal if you are simply citing the course materials. We know where it came from so there is no need to give the full reference as long as you cite it within the sentences where you use it in assignment. If you use outside sources in your journal, be sure to include the full reference at the end of your paper. See the course FAQ for more information on citing sources.

Each weekly journal will be assessed using the grading rubric:

Journal Grading Rubric (20 points possible)			
Distinguished 20 points	Proficient 15 points	Emerging 10 points	Unsatisfactory 5 points
Journal is thoughtful and thorough in its fulfillment of the assignment prompt. Completion of the activity and its connection to the course concepts is strong. Paraphrases and cites the textbook at least 3 times with meaningful connection using APA format. Meets or exceeds the 400 word length requirement and is substantive.	Journal is mostly thorough in its fulfillment of the assignment prompt. Completion of the activity and its connection to the course concepts is satisfactory. Cites course materials at least 2 times in the journal and is substantive. Meets the 400 word length.	While the assignment is completed, it may not be thorough. Journal may be missing a piece of the assignment such as evidence of completing the activity portion or weakly/not connecting personal ideas to the course concepts. Journal may not provide enough detail and may have fewer than 400 words in length.	Shows evidence of lack of engagement with assignment by not following directions or not writing substantive sentences. 0 points = Content is rude, inappropriate, or not uploaded by the deadline.