

Soc. 310

Final Project

Overview:

Your final project will take the form of a 5- 7 page document that provides recommendations and concrete suggestions for anti- racist interventions related to: environmental racism, health disparities, educational inequality, criminal in/justice, politics, or media and representation. Your project should focus on national issues in the United States or the New York/Long Island area. You can choose between the following formats:

- *Policy brief*
- *Strategic plan for a community-based or non-profit organization*
- *Business plan*
- *Artistic installation or project*

All final projects must include the following components:

- Clear description of specific problems related to racism or ethnocentrism
- Concrete suggestions for how these problems might be addressed
- At least five scholarly references (peer-reviewed journal articles or books)

Projects will be due on Blackboard no later than Sunday, April 28th, 11:59 PM.

Final projects that are turned in late will be downgraded one letter grade per day, beginning at Monday, April 29th 12:00 AM.

The final project provides an opportunity for students to:

- *summarize and analyze sociological research related to racism and ethnic stratification*
- *draw critical connections between assigned texts and real world issues*
- *develop practical ideas for promoting anti-racist change*
- *nurture your imagination and consider the kinds of individual and collective action required to bring about the change you'd like to see in the world*

Each project must be written in full, coherent prose (not bullet points). Your document should be double-spaced, 12-point font, with 1 inch margins. The bibliography is not counted in the page limits. **Projects that are longer than 7 pages will not be accepted. Projects that are less than 5 full pages will earn an F (59).** Citations and bibliographies should be formatted according to the ASA Style Guide, available in the Main Library (HM73 .A54 1997) or on Blackboard. You can also learn more about the ASA citation style here: <http://www.uwp.edu/departments/library/guides/asa.htm>

Directions:

Choose one of the following assignments:

1. Policy Brief

For this assignment, you will develop a policy brief that addresses the health or environmental consequences of racism nationally or locally (New York/Long Island). You should select a specific health problem related to racism, review existing policies, discuss related research and suggest policy proposals you think would make a constructive impact. Your policy brief should:

- Define a health or environmental problem related to racism
- Discuss specific health concerns for at least one racial or ethnic group
- Identify 2-3 policy proposals
- Make an argument for how and why your proposals address the problem(s)
- Describe the possible impact and consequences of your policy proposals

For guidelines about writing an effective health policy proposal, see Wong, Shale L., Larry A. Green, Andrew W. Bazemore, and Benjamin F. Miller. 2017. "How to write a health policy brief". *Families, Systems, & Health*. 35 (1): 21-24. Available online: <https://www.apa.org/pubs/journals/features/fsh-fsh0000238.pdf>

2. Strategic Plan

This assignment involves developing a strategic plan for a community-based or non-profit organization to address a specific problem related to racism in criminal in/justice or political representation **in New York City** or on **Long Island**.

- A mission statement describing your organization's name, purpose, goals, vision and who you plan to serve (*1 page*)
- Description of a problem related to racism that your organization will address (*2-3 pages*)
- Explanation of why you selected the neighborhood or location where your organization will operate (*1 page*)
- Summary of how your nonprofit will bring about the kinds of change you seek (*1-2 pages*)

- An organizational overview (*1-2 pages*)
 - o Staff size, roles and responsibilities
 - o Planned location, facilities, required technology or other equipment
 - o Operating costs
 - o Potential funding sources

Helpful links for writing your strategic plan:

- “Strategic Planning for Nonprofit Organizations” (NYC): https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/nonprofits/downloads/pdf/strategic_plan_structure.pdf
- “Create a Strategic Plan for Your Nonprofit” (NOLO): <https://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/create-strategic-plan-nonprofit-29521.html>

3. *Business plan*

This assignment challenges you to develop a plan for a business designed to creatively address a specific problem related to educational inequality, criminal in/justice or media representation. To accomplish this goal, you will need to show how your proposed business could both viably promote anti-racist change while also maintaining financial solvency.

Your business plan should include the following sections:

- Executive summary—overview of your business, its rationale, services or products provided and value (*1 page*)
- Clear description of how your business will address racism (*2-3 pages*)
- Explanation of the problems your company will solve, your client profile and who you plan to serve (*1-2 pages*)
- Market analysis—research on similar, related or competing companies and how your business will be better than the competition (*1-2 pages*)
- Organizational overview (*1-2 pages*)
 - o Staff size, roles and responsibilities
 - o Planned location, facilities, required technology or other equipment
 - o Operating costs
 - o Potential funding sources

Resource:

- “Write Your Business Plan” (Small Business Association): <https://www.sba.gov/business-guide/plan-your-business/write-your-business-plan>

4. Artistic installation or project

Design an anti-racist artistic installation or project that will address a specific problem related to educational inequality, criminal in/justice or media representation. Your artistic installation or project can take any form you wish (e.g. literary, film, performance, musical, mixed media, sculpture, dance, interactive, painting). This assignment presents you with an opportunity to let your imagination and creativity run wild. Components of your plan should include:

- A title and detailed overview of your artistic project (*1 page*)
- Description of a specific problem related to racism and explanation for how your project will address the problem you identified (*2-3 pages*)
- Definition of the geographic scope of your problem and project (e.g. U.S., another nation, or transnational) (*1-2 paragraphs*)
- Your personal motivation and/or artistic experience (*1 page*)
- Artistic context—provide information on the artistic archive or traditions into which you will situate your project (e.g. other artists, genres and relevant art history) (*1-2 pages*)
- Strategic overview (*1-2 pages*)
 - o Material elements required
 - o Equipment or space required
 - o Funding assessment

Resource:

- “Writing an Artist Proposal”: <http://www.saic.edu/media/saic/pdfs/lifesaic/careerco-opcenter/WritingGrantProposal.pdf>

Requirements

You must utilize at least academic sources (scholarly articles and books) in describing the racial problem and impact of your proposal. Any academic source you cite should have page numbers and a specified author.

Your written work will be evaluated with regard to:

1. Logic, argumentation and clarity of ideas
2. Originality and creativity
3. Proper use of citations and evidence
4. Style, spelling, grammar and formatting

Each paper must incorporate in text citations and a bibliography according to the ASA citation format. Your paper (not including the bibliography) must be at least 5 full pages and cannot exceed 7 full pages.