

USING A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH

Review a research article to identify the research conclusion. Take another look at that conclusion from the perspective of one of the major sociological theories.

REVIEW:

<https://news.ncsu.edu/2017/03/money-food-deserts-2017/>

1. What were the key findings and conclusion from the research?

THEORY:

Remember: The 4 major sociological theories are functionalism, conflict theory, symbolic interactionism, and rational choice theory.

2. Use 1 of the 4 major sociological theories to explain the key findings from the research article. You should write 2 paragraphs, one for each question.
 - a. How would this theory explain the key findings or conclusion of the research in the article?
 - b. What limitations does this theory demonstrate in addressing the problem examined in the research article?

LIMITATIONS

3. Use the article to help answer the questions below. You should write 2 paragraphs, one for each question.
 - a. Every research study has limitations. What are the limitations of the research method used in this research study?
 - b. What additional research should be conducted to learn more about the problem examined in the article?

FORMATTING

4. Your assignment must follow these formatting requirements:
 - a. Use Times New Roman font – size 12, with one-inch margins on all sides
 - b. Use section headers: learn, theory, and limitations; write left-indented paragraphs under each corresponding action
 - c. References are not required for this assignment as you will use the assigned article

IMPORTANT INFO

- Describe the key findings of the researchers and the conclusion drawn from the research
- Use a major sociological theory to explain the key findings or conclusion, and address any limitations of the theory
- Identify the articles limitations and provide additional research ideas

- Write in a skillful manner using stated formatting and correct grammar and spelling

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO USE FOR RESEARCH PAPER

	Functionalism	Society functions as a system. It has parts that work together and rely on each other to maintain balance and contribute to society's functioning as a whole.	Functionalists believe that society is held together by social consensus or cohesion, in which members agree to work together to achieve what is best for society.
	Conflict Theory	Society is in constant competition. Resources like money, good jobs, time, and material objects are limited, and we all compete for them.	Conflict theorists believe that social order is maintained by domination and power. Those with the most resources make the rules and use them to perpetuate a society's inequality to the benefit of some and the detriment of others.
	Symbolic Interactionism	Social reality is constructed by the people in a society. As people interact, they interpret the symbolic meaning of each other's actions and define their own roles in society.	Social order is possible because people learn what various symbols mean, and use those symbols as they interact with each other.
	Rational Choice Theory (Utilitarianism or Exchange Theory)	People are motivated by the desire for benefits like money, security, and happiness. Social interactions are based on a rational decision to maximize benefits and minimize disadvantages.	Social order is possible because most people realize it's in their best interests to cooperate and make compromises when necessary.

Existing Data	Because existing data have already been gathered, the researcher does not have to spend the time and money to gather data.	The data set that is being analyzed may not contain data on all the variables in which a sociologist is interested or may contain data on variables that are not measured in ways the sociologist prefers.
Content Analysis	Content analysis is unobtrusive and often less expensive and time-consuming.	There is considerable variation in the amount of time it can take, and it is labor-intensive. Coding can be subjective.
Survey	Many people can be included. If given to a random sample of the population, a survey's results can be generalized to the population.	Large surveys are expensive and time-consuming. Although much information is gathered, this information is relatively superficial.
Experiments	If random assignment is used, experiments provide fairly convincing data on cause and effect.	Because experiments do not involve random samples of the population, their results cannot be readily generalized to the population. Also, experiments tend to be artificial, which can affect the respondent's behavior.
Observation (Field Research)	Observational studies may provide rich, detailed information about the people who are observed.	Because observation studies do not involve random samples of the population, their results cannot readily be generalized to the population. Also, the researcher has less control over the data.