

## **Research Project**

### **Overview**

You will write a research paper and develop a presentation that you will give to the class during our final in-person meeting. The project will involve developing a sociological research question, exploring existing literature related to your research question, and conducting your own scientific research to answer the question.

### **Tutoring**

The GBCC Online Writing Center is available to all students taking GBCC credit-bearing courses, and can be accessed through your Blackboard organizations. Submit a paper and get feedback without having to come to campus. To request an account, contact Carol Despres, the Developmental Education Services & Tutor Coordinator with the Center for Academic Planning & Support (CAPS) at (603) 427-7623 or [cdespres@ccsnh.edu](mailto:cdespres@ccsnh.edu) or fill out this online form: <http://greatbay.edu/student-services/tutoring/request-appointment>

CAPS also has other resources to assist you with developing and refining the academic skills necessary to be successful in this class and with this project.

## **Assignment Deadlines**

**Monday, February 2, at 5:30pm**

Research Topic

**Monday, February 9, at 5:30pm**

Research Sub-Topic

**Tuesday, February 17, at 5:30pm**

Research Question

*\*Note: Because of Presidents' Day on 2/16, assignment is due on Tuesday, 2/17 at 5:30pm.*

**Monday, February 23, at 5:30pm**

Annotated Bibliography Part 1

**Monday, March 2, at 5:30pm**

Annotated Bibliography Part 2

**Monday, March 9, at 5:30pm**

Literature Review

**Monday, March 23, at 5:30pm**

Methods / Research Design

*Note: Because of Spring Break, assignment is due Monday, March 23, at 5:30pm.*

**Monday, April 13, at 5:30pm**

Research Findings

*\*Note: Conducting your research is a multi-week process. You have three weeks to complete this assignment, but should be making steady progress towards it each week in order to complete it successfully.*

**Monday, April 20 at 5:30pm**

Draft Research Paper

**Monday, April 27 at 5:30pm**

Peer Review

**Monday, May 4 at 5:30pm**

Presentations

**Monday, May 11 at 5:30pm**

Final version of Research Paper

## Project Grade

The Research Project is worth 20% of your semester course grade.

Late penalties will be applied as explained in the syllabus.

The list below shows all assignments along with the percentage of the total Research Project grade that the assignment is worth. The final version of your Research Paper is worth 50% of your total Research Project grade. Your presentation of your Research Project is worth 20% of your total Research project grade. The other 10 assignments are each worth either 2% or 4% of your total Research project grade. These assignments are “cumulative” in the sense that they build on each other and each will help strengthen the next and final products.

Research Topic — 2%

Research Sub-Topic — 2%

Research Question — 2%

Annotated Bibliography Part 1 — 2%

Annotated Bibliography Part 2 — 4%

Literature Review — 4%

Methods / Research Design — 4%

Research Findings — 4%

Draft Research Paper — 4%

Peer Review — 2%

Presentation — 20%

Final version of Research Paper — 50%

All assignments will be graded using the following standard:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Performance Level</b>
A	Proficient
B	Satisfactory
C	Approaching Competence
D or F	Unacceptable

All assignments contain a rubric that is used as the basis for grading the assignment. It is to your benefit to review these rubrics prior to completing the assignment as well as prior to submitting the assignment.

## Research Topic Assignment

1. Take the online survey (via Blackboard) and select the topic within which you will focus your research project.

Available topics include:

- Age
- Body, health and/or medicine
- Class
- Consumption
- Culture
- Crime and/or deviance
- Economy
- Education
- Environment
- Family
- Gender
- Globalization
- Politics
- Population and/or Urbanization
- Race and/or Ethnicity
- Religion
- Sexuality
- Social stratification (structural inequality)
- Socialization
- Social Movements

2. Skim the section of your textbook that addresses the topic you selected.

## Research Sub-Topic Assignment

1. Select a sub-topic to further focus your project (e.g. if you selected Race and/or Ethnicity, your sub-topic could be racial disparities in health, the racialization process, conceptions of beauty and the impact of color, the college experience for black Americans at Predominately White Institutions, Hispanic/Latino stereotypes, etc.). If you are having trouble coming up with a sub-topic, a few suggestions are to consult the textbook, look through a syllabus on a sociology course focused on your topic (e.g. do an online search for sociology sexuality syllabus or medical sociology syllabus), or look through the table of contents of a textbook on your topic (e.g. do an online search for sociology family textbook table of contents or sociology education textbook table of contents).
2. Read something about your sub-topic. This could be anything – a news article, a blog post, an academic article, a report, etc.
3. Submit a document to Blackboard that contains the following.
  - A. Your Name
  - B. Your Research Topic (selected last week)
  - C. Your Selected Research Sub-Topic
  - D. A reference for the item you read about your sub-topic, using ASA style.
  - E. At least one sentence sharing something you learned from that reading.

## **Research Question Assignment**

For this assignment, you need to write enough to answer the questions; there are no minimum required lengths for the responses on this assignment.

List your sub-topic for your Research Project:

Within your assigned topic, brainstorm 5 potential research questions. Your research question is the specific sociological question you hope to answer. Your research question should be a specific and focused question that you are interested in investigating. For each question, explain how the question is sociologically relevant.

1a. Research Question 1:

1b. Sociological relevance:

2a. Research Question 2:

2b. Sociological relevance:

3a. Research Question 3:

3b. Sociological relevance:

4. Now decide on one research question. Make sure to refine it so that it is specific, focused, clear, and well-written. What is your research question?

5. Select at least one of the three major sociological theories. Apply this theory to your research question. What is one possible answer to your research question based on this theory?

## Research Question Assignment Rubric

	√-, C Approaching Competence	√, B Satisfactory	√+, A Proficient
<b>Explanation of sociological perspective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Unconvincing explanation that research questions are sociologically relevant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provides acceptable explanation that research questions are sociologically relevant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provides solid explanation of how research questions are sociologically relevant</li> </ul>
<b>Research Questions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fall outside assigned topic</li> <li>▪ Overly broad, unmanageable, or unfocused</li> <li>▪ Sociological relevance is lacking, unclear, and/or absent entirely</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Somewhat specific, manageable, and focused</li> <li>▪ Appear to fall within assigned topic</li> <li>▪ The sociological relevance is not clearly established or is inconsistent</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Specific, manageable, and focused</li> <li>▪ Clearly fall within assigned topic</li> <li>▪ The sociological relevance is clear and apparent</li> </ul>
<b>Clear</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lacking or unclear; content is difficult to interpret and may contain unrelated information</li> <li>▪ Spelling, grammar, punctuation, or formatting errors are evident.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Requires some effort for reader to figure out what you are trying to state / potential misinterpretations</li> <li>▪ Attention is paid to spelling, grammar, punctuation, and formatting; any errors are minor and few in number</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Well-written, understandable (can understand on first read)</li> <li>▪ Uses correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, and formatting throughout</li> </ul>
<b>Complete</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Substantially missing components of assignment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Somewhat follows guidelines</li> <li>▪ Answers most prompts within assignment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Follows guidelines</li> <li>▪ Answers all prompts within assignment</li> </ul>

## **Annotated Bibliography Assignment**

Your annotated bibliography will help you explore what the existing literature says about your research question. This is the first step towards creating a literature review. Reviewing the literature review assignment for this project and the University of New Hampshire's guides to writing a literature review prior to completing this assignment will help you to make this assignment most useful. You can read the guide at <http://www.unh.edu/writing/cwc/handouts/other/Lit%20Review%20FINAL.pdf>

The literature review for this project is an abbreviated one, meaning it will not provide a comprehensive review of the literature on the matter. Therefore please select the literature you use intentionally.

Find pivotal or interesting literature that addresses your research question. You need to find at least four publications.

- At least two must be peer-reviewed articles. At least one of these must be written by a sociologist.
- The remaining literature is your choice, based on what you think is the most relevant, pivotal, and interesting literature as it pertains to your topic. This can include additional peer-reviewed articles, stories from a news or popular magazine or paper, an educational or organizational publication (e.g. an academic book, a study or report from a non-profit, a publication from a think tank), etc.

UNH has a guide to writing annotated bibliographies, available at: <http://www.unh.edu/writing/cwc/handouts/other/Annotated%20Bibliography.pdf>

Make sure your bibliographic information is in ASA (American Sociological Association) format.

Your annotations should be 1-2 paragraphs per citation.

This assignment will take two weeks to complete. To ensure you have started and are making progress towards completing the assignment, you have an interim assignment due on Monday, February 23, "Annotated Bibliography Part One." For this assignment, you will need to submit a list of the references you are using for your annotated bibliography. These references must be in ASA format.

For Part Two, you will submit your finished Annotated Bibliography.

## Annotated Bibliography Assignment Rubric

	√-, C Approaching Competence	√, B Satisfactory	√+, A Proficient
<b>Quality of Sources and Annotations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sources are not clearly relevant to the research question</li> <li>▪ Annotation does not demonstrate careful reading and clear understanding of source content, argument, and relevance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sources are somewhat clearly relevant to the research question</li> <li>▪ Annotation somewhat demonstrates careful reading and clear understanding of source content, argument, and relevance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sources are relevant to the research question</li> <li>▪ Annotation demonstrates careful reading and clear understanding of source content, argument, and relevance</li> </ul>
<b>Clear</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lacking or unclear; content is difficult to interpret and may contain unrelated information</li> <li>▪ Spelling, grammar, punctuation, or formatting errors are evident.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Requires some effort for reader to figure out what you are trying to state / potential misinterpretations</li> <li>▪ Attention is paid to spelling, grammar, punctuation, and formatting; any errors are minor and few in number</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Well-written, understandable (can understand on first read)</li> <li>▪ Uses correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, and formatting throughout</li> </ul>
<b>Complete</b>	<p>Any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Does not follow guidelines</li> <li>▪ Contains only one peer-reviewed article</li> <li>▪ Less than one paragraph of writing per annotation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Generally follows guidelines</li> <li>▪ Includes 2-3 publications, including both 2 peer-reviewed articles</li> <li>▪ Averages at least one paragraph written per annotation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Follows guidelines</li> <li>▪ Includes at least four publications</li> <li>▪ At least one paragraph written per annotation</li> </ul>
<b>Citations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Citations are missing or do not contain necessary information.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Citations are included and contain necessary information but are not properly formatted.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Citations are included and properly formatted.</li> </ul>

## Literature Review Assignment

This assignment will help you to review the existing literature to determine what is already known about your research question. It will also help you distinguish what has been answered from what still needs to be answered or remains unsettled. This literature review may end up answering your research question, providing insight into possible answers, raising key questions or new questions, discussing methods for studying your research question, etc.

Your goal with this assignment is to explain what the literature says about your research question in order to ensure your research question sets you up to ask a sophisticated question that furthers sociological understanding of your research topic and to guide you towards approaches to thinking about your research question as you proceed to do your own scientific study of it.

Please review UNH's guide regarding how to write literature reviews, available at:  
<http://www.unh.edu/writing/cwc/handouts/other/Lit%20Review%20FINAL.pdf>

You only need to include a minimum of 4 sources, at least 1 of which must be a peer-reviewed article by a sociologist and at least one of which is either a peer-reviewed article or a publication/report. You may use the sources from your annotated bibliography. Your literature review should be at least 3 pages. Your bibliography should be in ASA format and does not count towards the page total.

For the conclusion to your literature review, you should address the following:

- 1) What are the implications the literature you read has for your research question and project? Based on what you read, are there any changes you would make to your research question? Do you want to attempt to replicate a study you read? Do you want to extend its sociological contributions through your project? Were there any unanswered questions in the literature you saw? What are you still curious about, or more curious about, now that you have read this literature? Revise your research question based on the literature you read and explain why you changed what you did. If you are keeping your research question the same, explain why as well as how the literature you read have developed your thoughts about your hypothesis or about how to study the research question.
- 2) Develop a hypothesis. Given the existing literature on the subject, as well as your knowledge of the topic at hand and of sociological theory, what do you expect the answer to your research question to be?

## Literature Review Assignment Rubric

	√-, C Approaching Competence	√, B Satisfactory	√+, A Proficient
<b>Quality of Sources and Analysis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sources are not clearly relevant to the research question</li> <li>▪ Annotation does not demonstrate reading and understanding of source content, argument, and relevance</li> <li>▪ Analysis is presented in a disjointed manner, more like an annotated bibliography than a literature review</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sources are relevant to your research question</li> <li>▪ Analysis demonstrates reading and understanding of source content, argument, and relevance</li> <li>▪ Analysis attempts to synthesize information with a logical progression and conclusion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sources are relevant to the research question; they offer insight regarding your research question and/or methodology based on the evidence offered</li> <li>▪ Analysis demonstrates careful reading and clear understanding of source content, argument, and relevance</li> <li>▪ Analysis synthesizes the information, is logically organized with good flow, threads the issues throughout the paper, and brings the review to a logical conclusion</li> </ul>
<b>Clear</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lacking or unclear; content is difficult to interpret and may contain unrelated information</li> <li>▪ Spelling, grammar, punctuation, or formatting errors are evident.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Requires some effort for reader to figure out what you are trying to state / potential misinterpretations</li> <li>▪ Attention is paid to spelling, grammar, punctuation, and formatting; any errors are minor and few in number</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Well-written, understandable (can understand on first read)</li> <li>▪ Uses correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, and formatting throughout</li> </ul>
<b>Complete</b>	<p>Any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Does not follow guidelines</li> <li>▪ Missing peer reviewed article</li> <li>▪ Missing discussion of research question or hypothesis in conclusion</li> <li>▪ 1 page</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Generally follows guidelines</li> <li>▪ Includes at least 1 peer-reviewed article</li> <li>▪ Conclusion answers all prompts within assignment</li> <li>▪ 2 pages</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Follows guidelines</li> <li>▪ Includes at least four publications.</li> <li>▪ Conclusion fully answers all prompts within assignment</li> <li>▪ At least three pages</li> </ul>
<b>Citations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ References are missing or do not contain necessary information</li> <li>▪ Missing in-text citations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ References are included, referenced in-text, and contain necessary information but are not properly formatted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ References are included and properly formatted</li> <li>▪ Sources are properly cited in-text when specific statements are made</li> </ul>

## **Research Design / Methods Assignment**

You should design your project so you will have rich, up-to-date, and correct evidence to offer insights into the answer(s) to your research question. For this assignment, you will decide what data, facts, perspectives, and/or research findings you will find in order to answer your research question. For this assignment, write at least one paragraph in response to each question.

### **1. Develop and clarify what the concepts mean that are part of your research question. (provide a formal definition of what is being studied).**

For example, if you include the concept of education in your research question, what do you mean by education? Years of education? Amount of knowledge and training acquired in school? If you are studying religiosity, do you mean affiliation with a house of worship? Intensity of spiritual beliefs?

### **2. How will you measure these concepts?**

For example, years of education could be measured by the final grade one completed. Intensity of spiritual beliefs could be measured by the degree to which an individual reports their spiritual beliefs impact their actions and decisions.

### **3. What scientific method will you use to answer your question?**

Some of the most common sociological research methods include survey research, interview research, focus groups, observational research, secondary data analysis, content analysis, experiments, comparative historical research, and mixed methods; for more information on these methods, see [http://www.asanet.org/introsociology/Documents/Persell Methods Reading11.htm](http://www.asanet.org/introsociology/Documents/Persell%20Methods%20Reading11.htm) - DesigningStudies. Will you distribute a survey or consult the existing research on this topic? Will you present data that is available from online sources? Are you planning to interview friends, family, experts? Also, why are you using this particular method(s) to answer your research question?

### **4. Be more specific about your plan for using this method to answer your question.**

What evidence will you use to answer your question? For example, if you are conducting a survey, how many people will you survey? How will you select your survey participants? Your research design plan should be ambitious enough to provide a sophisticated answer to your question while also being realistic and achievable given the constraints of this project. Provide the relevant parts of the instruments you will use (e.g. the survey or interview questions that will help answer your research question).

### **5. What research ethics considerations do you need to be conscious of during your research?**

If you are using human subjects, is there any potential harm to them; if so, how will you minimize it? If you are using human subjects, how will you obtain their informed consent? Note: for surveys, interviews, etc. you need to obtain signed consent/permission forms – a copy is posted on Blackboard. You should also keep a copy of all raw data (e.g. physical surveys, survey results, news clippings, video interviews, etc.) until you have received your semester grade.

## Research Design / Methods Rubric

	√-, C Approaching Competence	√, B Satisfactory	√+, A Proficient
<b>Research Design Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Research design plan will not sufficiently answer your research question</li> <li>▪ Is not rigorous and/or not manageable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Will allow for evidence that helps answer your research question</li> <li>▪ Is somewhat rigorous and/or somewhat manageable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Will allow for rich, up-to-date, correct evidence to persuasively answer your sociologically relevant question</li> <li>▪ Is sufficiently rigorous and simultaneously manageable</li> </ul>
<b>Clear</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lacking or unclear; content is difficult to interpret and may contain unrelated information</li> <li>▪ Spelling, grammar, punctuation, or formatting errors are evident.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Requires some effort for reader to figure out what you are trying to state / potential misinterpretations</li> <li>▪ Attention is paid to spelling, grammar, punctuation, and formatting; any errors are minor and few in number</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Well-written, understandable (can understand on first read)</li> <li>▪ Uses correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, and formatting throughout</li> </ul>
<b>Complete</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Does not follow guidelines</li> <li>▪ Missing responses to one or more prompts within assignment</li> <li>▪ Averages less than one paragraph of writing per question</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Generally follows guidelines</li> <li>▪ Answers all prompts within assignment</li> <li>▪ Averages at least one paragraph written per question</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Follows guidelines</li> <li>▪ Fully answers all prompts within assignment</li> <li>▪ At least one paragraph written per question</li> </ul>

## Research Findings Assignment

For this assignment, you will share your findings from the three weeks of conducting your research.

What is the rich, up-to-date, and correct evidence you collected based on your plan from your Research Design / Methods Assignment? Write at least one paragraph each for Questions # 4, 5, and 6.

1. List your specific research question:

2. Summary of Methods:

For this summary, update your research design to reflect what actually occurred (e.g. how many surveys did you actually collect and how did you select the participants? Who did you end up interviewing? Were they in-depth interviews or short interviews focused on a few specific questions? If you did a content analysis of toys, what stores did you go to, how did you select those stores, how many toys did you look at in each store, how did you select those toys, etc.)

3. Limitations:

What limitations in your study should be considered in evaluating the results or in generalizing the results?

4. Data/Findings:

You do not need to and should not provide a copy of all of your raw data. Here you should present aggregate or summarized data, or whatever would be appropriate or similar for the type of research you conducted, for the material that is relevant to answering your research question. Aggregate data is grouped data; for example, if you conducted a survey, share the survey results for relevant questions (e.g. For the question, “How many times have you heard the a racial slur during the past year, 10 people said 0 times, 15 people said once, 10 people said twice, 5 people said three times, 3 people said four times, and 3 people said five or more times. You may also want to break this down by racial group – what were the results for white participants? black participants? other participants of color? Were there differences by age?).

5. Results/Analysis:

What conclusions can you make from your data? What does your data say about your research question? What does your data say about your hypothesis? Depending on your research method, this section should include graphs or other relevant figures or graphics.

6. Implications:

Why do your results matter? What lines of further research does your study suggest?

## Research Findings Rubric

	√-, C Approaching Competence	√, B Satisfactory	√+, A Proficient
<b>Findings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Better or more supporting evidence is needed.</li> <li>▪ Findings are insufficient to address your sociologically relevant question.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Supporting evidence is used, but could rely on stronger data or a greater diversity of sources.</li> <li>▪ Addresses your sociologically relevant question.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rich, up-to-date, correct evidence to address research question</li> <li>▪ Persuasively provides insight into your sociologically relevant question.</li> </ul>
<b>Clear</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lacking or unclear; content is difficult to interpret and may contain unrelated information</li> <li>▪ Spelling, grammar, punctuation, or formatting errors are evident.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Requires some effort for reader to figure out what you are trying to state / potential misinterpretations</li> <li>▪ Attention is paid to spelling, grammar, punctuation, and formatting; any errors are minor and few in number</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Well-written, understandable (can understand on first read)</li> <li>▪ Uses correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, and formatting throughout</li> </ul>
<b>Complete</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Does not follow guidelines</li> <li>▪ Missing responses to one or more prompts within assignment</li> <li>▪ Averages less than one paragraph of writing per specified question</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Generally follows guidelines</li> <li>▪ Answers all prompts within assignment</li> <li>▪ Averages at least one paragraph written per specified questions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Follows guidelines</li> <li>▪ Fully answers all prompts within assignment</li> <li>▪ At least one paragraph written per specified questions</li> </ul>

## **Draft Research Paper Assignment**

Your draft is expected to be a complete paper. For more details on the requirements for the paper, see the rubric for this assignment. The paper should be at least 5 pages and no more than 7 pages (excluding the bibliography).

Your paper should include the following sections (though the use of headings and the names of said headings is up to you):

- Introduction
- Literature Review
- Methods
- Findings
- Limitations
- Discussion/Analysis
- Implications/Conclusion

Make sure your research question is explicitly stated.

## Draft Research Paper Rubric

Rubric	Unacceptable (D or F, 0-69.99)	Approaching Competence (C, 70-79.99)	Satisfactory (B, 80-89.99)	Proficient (A, 90-100)
<b>Clarity</b>	Communicates content poorly. Lacking or unclear; content is difficult to interpret and may contain unrelated information	Does not communicate content well; requires some effort for reader to figure out what you are trying to communicate / potential misinterpretations	Communicates content; generally understandable. Generally well-structured.	Adeptly communicates content; understandable upon first read. Strong organization, focus, and flow.
<b>Sociological Perspective &amp; Relevance</b>	Does not demonstrate grasp of the sociological perspective. Sociological relevance is lacking, unclear, and/or absent entirely.	Shows an incomplete grasp of the sociological perspective. Sociological relevance is only somewhat established or is inconsistent.	Communicates sociological understanding. Sociological relevance is apparent but could be bolstered throughout.	Demonstrates deep understanding of the sociological perspective. Sociological relevance is clear and consistently reinforced throughout.
<b>Supporting Evidence</b>	Supporting evidence is missing, lacking, or is used incorrectly.	More or stronger supporting evidence is needed.	Supporting evidence is used, but could rely on stronger evidence or a greater diversity of sources.	Rich, up-to-date, and correct evidence from multiple sources supports all points
<b>Content &amp; Analysis</b>	Introduction does not orient the audience to what will follow. Central argument is not presented, unclear, or unsupported. Conclusion is lacking or missing entirely.	Introduction introduces the topic but does not create a strong sense of what is to follow. Central argument is presented and supported. Conclusion is weak, missing, or incomplete.	Introduction is clear and coherent, evokes interest in the topic, and communicates the research question. Central argument is developed and the paper supports this argument. Conclusion sums up the content.	Introduction is compelling and clearly communicates the research question. Establishes strong sense of purpose; the structure is logical and assists the development of the central argument. Conclusion provides closure to the paper and provides a take home message regarding its relevance or implications.
<b>Text</b>	Spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors are evident. 3 or fewer or 10 or more pages	There are some spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors. 4 or 9 pages	Attention is paid to spelling, grammar, punctuation, and formatting; any errors are minor and few in number. 5-8 pages	Uses correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, and formatting throughout. 5-7 pages
<b>Citations &amp; References</b>	Citations or references are missing.	Citations or references are partially complete.	Provides all citations and references, but they are not properly formatted .	Provides all needed citations and references, properly formatted.

## Peer Review Assignment

1. You will be assigned a paper to read. Read this paper. If it is a quality paper, you should clearly be able to understand the author's topic, research question, thesis, evidence, and conclusions. As you are reading, try to answer the following questions in your head:

- A. What is the project about (topic)?
- B. What specific sociological question is the author interested in addressing (Research Question)?
- C. What is the main point or argument the author is making (Thesis)?
- D. What data, facts, perspectives, or research findings support their thesis (Evidence)?

2. Write the topic of each paragraph in one sentence following the format below. (Note: you can use two sentences if a paragraph is really long or has too many ideas to summarize it in one sentence).

(1) This is the topic of the first paragraph. (2) This is the topic of the second paragraph. (3) This is the topic of the third paragraph. (4) etc.

This should help you and the author to think about the paper's structure, flow, and clarity.

For example:

(1) Bullying is a problem. (2) The paper will explore how insights into bullying challenge current interventions. (3) The literature review will cover sociological literature on bullying. (4) Bullying is broadly perceived as an individualist problem. (4) This research is overly quantitative and lacks a sociological perspective. (5) New literature has shown that bullying reproduces norms supported by our schools that are part of a larger system of social stratification. (6) Bullying is a repeated form of normalized peer aggression. (6) ...

3. Fill out the rubric for the paper you are assigned to review (highlight or bold the text that matches how you would evaluate the paper).

4. Write feedback for the paper's author. Include at least two positive comments and two suggested ways to improve the paper.

## **Peer Review Template**

**Write the topic of each paragraph in one sentence following the format below.**

(1) This is the topic of the first paragraph. (2) This is the topic of the second paragraph. (3) This is the topic of the third paragraph. (4) etc.

**Draft Research Paper Rubric:** Highlight or bold the text in the box for how you would evaluate the paper.

<b>Rubric</b>	<b>Unacceptable (D or F, 0-69.99)</b>	<b>Approaching Competence (C, 70-79.99)</b>	<b>Satisfactory (B, 80-89.99)</b>	<b>Proficient (A, 90-100)</b>
<b>Clarity</b>	Communicates content poorly. Lacking or unclear; content is difficult to interpret and may contain unrelated information	Does not communicate content well; requires some effort for reader to figure out what you are trying to communicate / potential misinterpretations	Communicates content; generally understandable. Generally well-structured.	Adeptly communicates content; understandable upon first read. Strong organization, focus, and flow.
<b>Sociological Perspective &amp; Relevance</b>	Does not demonstrate grasp of the sociological perspective. Sociological relevance is lacking, unclear, and/or absent entirely.	Shows an incomplete grasp of the sociological perspective. Sociological relevance is only somewhat established or is inconsistent.	Communicates sociological understanding. Sociological relevance is apparent but could be bolstered throughout.	Demonstrates deep understanding of the sociological perspective. Sociological relevance is clear and consistently reinforced throughout.
<b>Supporting Evidence</b>	Supporting evidence is missing, lacking, or is used incorrectly.	More or stronger supporting evidence is needed.	Supporting evidence is used, but could rely on stronger evidence or a greater diversity of sources.	Rich, up-to-date, and correct evidence from multiple sources supports all points
<b>Content &amp; Analysis</b>	Introduction does not orient the audience to what will follow. Central argument is not presented, unclear, or unsupported. Conclusion is lacking or missing entirely.	Introduction introduces the topic but does not create a strong sense of what is to follow. Central argument is presented and supported. Conclusion is weak, missing, or incomplete.	Introduction is clear and coherent, evokes interest in the topic, and communicates the research question. Central argument is developed and the paper supports this argument. Conclusion sums up the content.	Introduction is compelling and clearly communicates the research question. Establishes strong sense of purpose; the structure is logical and assists the development of the central argument. Conclusion provides closure to the paper and provides a take home message regarding its relevance or implications.
<b>Text</b>	Spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors are evident. 3 or fewer or 10 or more pages	There are some spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors. 4 or 9 pages	Attention is paid to spelling, grammar, punctuation, and formatting; any errors are minor and few in number. 5-8 pages	Uses correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, and formatting throughout. 5-7 pages
<b>Citations &amp; References</b>	Citations or references are missing.	Citations or references are partially complete.	Provides all citations and references, but they are not properly formatted .	Provides all needed citations and references, properly formatted.

**Feedback:** Write feedback for the paper's author. Include at least two positive comments and two suggested ways to improve the paper.

Positives:

Areas for improvement:

## Peer Review Assignment Rubric

	√-, C Approaching Competence	√, B Satisfactory	√+, A Proficient
<b>Content</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not concrete enough to be helpful</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Somewhat thorough and thoughtful</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thorough, thoughtful, and useful</li> </ul>
<b>Clear</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lacking or unclear; content is difficult to interpret and may contain unrelated information</li> <li>Spelling, grammar, punctuation, or formatting errors are evident.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires some effort for reader to figure out what you are trying to state / potential misinterpretations</li> <li>Attention is paid to spelling, grammar, punctuation, and formatting; any errors are minor and few in number</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well-written, understandable (can understand on first read)</li> <li>Uses correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, and formatting throughout</li> </ul>
<b>Complete</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does not follow guidelines</li> <li>Missing responses to one or more prompts within assignment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generally follows guidelines</li> <li>Answers all prompts within assignment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follows guidelines</li> <li>Fully answers all prompts within assignment</li> </ul>

## **Presentation**

You will share your research and findings during the last in-person class. You should be prepared to give a 5 minute presentation and answer questions about your research. You may use notes but should not read your presentation. You will need to develop a slideshow presentation (e.g. Powerpoint, Prezi) to use to support your presentation. If you would like you can also develop and copy a handout to give out to the class, but this is not required. Please see the rubric for further requirements.

## Presentation Rubric

Rubric	Unacceptable (D or F, 0-69.99)	Approaching Competence (C, 70-79.99)	Satisfactory (B, 80-89.99)	Proficient (A, 90-100)
<b>Content</b>	Presenter demonstrates a lack of understanding of the material. Presentation is not engaging, interesting, or focused. The introduction and conclusion are unclear, the research question is vague, and the argument is unclear or unsupported.	Presenter demonstrates an emerging understanding of the material. Parts of the presentation are engaging. The presentation has a clear introduction, identifies the research question, presents an argument, and has a conclusion. Most content is on-topic and relevant.	Presenter demonstrates understanding of the material and keeps the class's attention. Introduction is clear and coherent and evokes interest. Research question is identified. Argument is somewhat effectively presented. All content relates to the overall presentation. The presentation has a conclusion.	Presenter demonstrates full grasp of the material and is interesting and engaging. Introduction is compelling and prepares class for presentation. Research question is clearly identified. Argument is effectively presented. All content is pertinent to the presentation and aids in class's understanding. There is an obvious conclusion to the presentation.
<b>Sociological Perspective &amp; Relevance</b>	Does not demonstrate grasp of the sociological perspective. Sociological relevance is lacking, unclear, and/or absent entirely.	Shows an incomplete grasp of the sociological perspective. Sociological relevance is only somewhat established or is inconsistent.	Communicates sociological understanding. Sociological relevance is apparent but could be bolstered throughout.	Demonstrates deep understanding of the sociological perspective. Sociological relevance is clear and consistently reinforced throughout.
<b>Organization</b>	Presentation is disorganized and/or difficult to follow. Time departs from 5 minutes by 2 minutes or more.	Presentation follows a sequence but could be organized much more effectively. Time departs from 5 minutes by less than 2 minutes.	Presentation flows pretty well. Time departs from 5 minutes by less than 90 seconds.	Well-organized in a logical sequence. Easy to follow. Presentation time departs from 5 minutes by less than 1 minute.
<b>Delivery</b>	Class has difficulty hearing or understanding presenter. Significant barriers exist regarding filler words, pacing, etc. Presenter reads from slideshow.	Class can hear presentation, but some work is needed on pacing, filler words, eye contact, or other presentation skills. Presenter is not reading from slideshow.	Smooth rehearsed presentation. Presenter is not reading from slideshow or notes. Class can hear and understand presentation.	Audible and articulate. Limited use of filler words (e.g. umm, like, etc.). Presentation appears well rehearsed. Presenter is speaking, not reading from slideshow or notes. Good pacing (not too slow or rushed). Eye contact is made. No gum or other distractions. Presenter effectively responds to questions.

## Slideshow

Slideshow contains lots of text, is cluttered, and contains few graphics. Graphics do not support the presentation and may be unrelated. Spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors are evident. Citations or references are missing.

Slides attempt to add value to presentation, but need more development to be effective. Text could be used more sparingly or intentionally and graphics could be more relevant. There are some spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors. Citations or references are partially complete.

Slideshow is informative and adds to the presentation. Text is focused, not overwhelming, and graphics support the presentation. Attention is paid to spelling, grammar, punctuation, and formatting; any errors are minor and few in number. Provides all citations and references, but they are not properly formatted

Slides do not contain too much information or text. Slideshow is clean and simple, not distracting, informative, engaging, and adds value to the presentation. Use of graphs, pictures, figures, etc. effectively support the presentation. Uses correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, and formatting throughout. Provides all needed citations and references, properly formatted.

## **Final Version Research Paper Assignment**

Finalize your research paper. The assignment and rubric are the same as for the first draft.