SOC 2063 Research Project Instructions:

Paper Instructions

Building on the research topic you proposed early in the course, you will now conduct your research and report your findings.

PAPER FORMATTING

1. Papers should be approximately 750-1,000 words long.

2. Give your paper a title that briefly and clearly identifies its topic, such as “Interview with a Norman Police Officer” or “Researching Restorative Justice”. The title should appear at the top of the document; you do not need a separate title page.

3. Any references to the textbook or research articles must follow the APA (American Psychological Association) citation style. You must include both an in-text citation and a bibliography entry for each outside reference used. Resources for formatting APA citations can be found in our course Moodle or LibGuide.

OPTION 1: INTERVIEW

Once your interview and questions are approved, conduct an interview of about 30 minutes. Interviews should be face-to-face meetings. In exceptional circumstances, with the professor’s advance permission, you may conduct a phone or video conference interview. Written responses exchanged through email are NOT an appropriate substitute.

At the time of the interview: Introduce yourself and tell the person why you are interviewing them. Be considerate of the person’s time: ask them how much time they can spare and don’t go beyond that. Inform the person you are interviewing that you will not use their name in your paper. If you hope to record the interview, ask permission. Plan to ask 10 questions (be sure to use any feedback over your questions that you received in topic proposal). Feel free to ask follow-up questions as you go along in your interview if time permits (once you know more about their work, you may think of other questions to ask). Take as detailed notes as possible. Be sure to thank them!

Remember that your goal is to learn more about crime from the perspective that your interviewee has gained through his/her work.

What you turn in (Interview Option):

Your paper will have two parts: an interview transcript and an analysis of the experience.

Part 1: Transcript. Begin your paper by stating why you chose this option. State the job title and place of employment of the person you interviewed. (DO NOT use the real name of the person you interviewed.) State your questions and the exact answers you received.
Part 2: Analysis. Describe the interview process. Was it difficult or easy? What were the challenges? Would you do anything different? What did you learn from this interview that helps you better understand the topic of crime and delinquency? Identify at least three key findings or lessons you learned, and connect at least one of these findings to a vocabulary term, topic, or theory addressed in the textbook.

Papers should be approximately 750-1,000 words in length, with at least 300 words in Part 2. *(It is fine if your transcript runs over the recommended word count. Make sure your Part 2 meets the minimum required length.)*

OPTION 2: RESEARCH SUMMARY

If you elected to do the research summary, use the two research articles that you received approval on in your topic proposal. If you want to change your topic/articles at this point, contact me for approval.

What you turn in (Research Summary Option):

Begin your paper by stating your topic and why you chose this option. State the titles and authors of both articles. What were the research questions in each article? How did the researchers study the topic (a survey, experiment, etc.)? Provide a summary of each article. What were the main findings of each article? Since both articles are over the same topic, how are the two articles similar and different from each other? Describe how you might study the same research question using a different research method and how the results might differ. In what ways did these articles add to your understanding of the topic? (Be specific)

SUBMITTING YOUR PAPER

You will submit your paper in the weekly discussion forum activity. In your post, be sure to:

1) Give the post the same title as your paper. (That will help classmates quickly identify the topic of your paper.)

2) Attach your document to the discussion activity.

3) Paste the text into the discussion box as you normally do for discussion posts.

You will also be expected to provide feedback to a classmate in a response post.

GRADING CRITERIA

The final paper is worth up to **85 points**, based on the following criteria:

- **50 points**: Quality of analysis
- **15 points**: Spelling, grammar, and formatting - follows all instructions
- **10 points**: Citations – is APA style followed for both in-text and bibliography citations?
- **10 points**: response post provides specific, constructive feedback for classmate.