SOC 2063 Research Project Instructions: Topic Proposal

This project will be your way to explore an area of Crime and Delinquency of interest to you. You have two options: 1) Interview a professional working in the corrections field, or 2) Summarize two research articles.

OPTION 1: INTERVIEW

Interview a professional working in the corrections field. This can be a prison officer, police officer, legal aid attorney, criminal defense or prosecuting attorney, parole officer, OSBI or FBI employee, or a chaplain who works with incarcerated persons. (If you have another position in mind that relates to our topic, you may ask for approval.) Prepare about 10 questions to ask in the course of an approximately 30-minute conversation.

Possible questions:

1. What is your job? How did you come to do your current job? What level of education or experience is required for your job?
2. What is your organization’s specific role in the area of corrections?
3. What are the goals of your organization?
4. How well do you think your organization meets its goals?
5. What are the biggest obstacles your organization faces in achieving its goals?
6. Given what you see in your job, what are factors that make crime more likely?
7. Given what you see in your job, what approaches are effective at reducing crime?

OPTION 2: RESEARCH SUMMARY

Summarize two research articles from peer-reviewed scholarly journals. You may choose any topic related to crime and delinquency that interests you. Both articles must be over the same topic. Submit the article citations, tell why you selected this topic, describe the research process and the findings, and explain how they relate to what you have been learning in the course.

The articles may come from any peer-reviewed scholarly journal, but here is a list of journals held by our library or available through Interlibrary Loan that may be especially helpful: *Criminology, Social Problems, Social Forces, Law and Society Review, Journal of Family Violence, Journal of Criminal Law & Criminology, Journal of Drug Issues, Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice, Journal of Interpersonal Violence, Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice, Deviant Behavior, Crime & Delinquency, Contemporary Justice Review, American Sociological...

Check out our [LibGuide webpage](#) and/or contact Dana Tuley-Williams in the OCCC Library for help.

**Your research project will be submitted in TWO PARTS:**

**PART 1:** SUBMIT YOUR **TOPIC** FOR APPROVAL.

**PART 2:** Submit the final project itself.

**WHAT YOU TURN IN FOR PART 1 (TOPIC):**

If you chose Option 1, state why you chose this option, the job title and employer of the person you will interview, and a list of questions you plan to ask. (DO NOT use the real name of the person you are going to interview.)

If you chose Option 2, state why you chose this option, your topic, and the two articles you have chosen (along with the journals they appear in).

You will submit this assignment in a discussion post so that each of you can see and comment on your classmates’ proposal. In your response post you will offer feedback and helpful suggestions to a classmate over his/her project proposal.

**Grading Criteria, Part 1:**

The proposal is worth up to **30 points**, based on the following criteria:

- **10 points:** follows all instructions
- **10 points:** quality of submission
  - Option 1: *appropriate interview subject, thoughtful questions*
  - Option 2: *well-chosen sources, effective explanation of topic*
- **10 points:** response post provides specific, constructive feedback for classmate.

**Detailed instructions for the paper (Part 2) are in a separate document.**