

## Sociology Final Exam – Society’s Impact on You

For the final exam, you are going to use the sociological perspective to examine your own life and views on the topics we studied this semester. In this essay you will begin by examining the three greatest societal influences on your life. You will then share your thoughts on the issues we have tackled this year. This will be a formal essay, which means you will be required to write an introduction with a thesis statement, six supporting paragraphs with topic sentences, and a conclusion.

### **Required Elements:**

- **Intro paragraph**
  - This should introduce the reader to basic info about you. It should include 2-3 sentences about what is important to you in life, your life goals, your view of the world, etc.
  - MOST IMPORTANTLY, your intro should end with a 2 sentence THESIS STATEMENT that identifies the three most influential societal factors to your life and the three topics from class that were the most interesting to you (see list on page 2). The three societal factors you identify in your thesis will be the topics for your first three body paragraphs. The most interesting topics from class will be the topics of paragraphs four through six.
  - **Here are some societal factors as suggestions (you may use others):**
    - government
    - race
    - sex/gender
    - religion
    - economy
    - crime
    - family (nuclear family (mom, dad, siblings) and/or extended family)
    - friends
    - school/education
    - the internet/social media
    - culture (art, music, movies, tv, fashion, video games, dance, etc.)
    - organized extracurricular activities (soccer, band, ballet, gymnastics, mock trial, etc.)
    - town/neighborhood
    - work (volunteer work, job, un-paid responsibilities)
  
- **Body paragraphs 1-3**
  - Each body paragraph should explain in detail how one of the societal factors identified in your thesis has impacted your life in a significant way and helped to make you the person you are today.
  - Your body paragraphs should be about 6-8 sentences in length and provide specific examples from your life (at least 3 specific examples for each societal factor) to back up why/how a particular societal factor has been a major influence on you.

- **Body Paragraphs 4-6**
  - For your next three body paragraphs, you will need to write thoughtfully about three of the "major topics" we covered this semester. Each paragraph (4-6) should focus on one particular unit/topic. Those topics include:
    - Sociological Imagination
    - The power of categories, expectations, and labels
    - Sociological theories: Symbolic Interactionism, Labeling Theory, Looking Glass Self
    - Culture
    - Socialization/Prussian Blue
    - Sex/Gender/Rape/Domestic Violence
    - Drug Use and Addiction in America
    - War on Drugs and Mass Incarceration
  - Each paragraph should explain in 4-6 sentences what you got out of (or learned) from the particular unit. Each paragraph should address the following questions: What did you learn that you hadn't known before? What, if anything, do you now look at in a different way, or think about differently? Or did it confirm and strengthen viewpoints that you already had? If so, which ones? How will you apply what you learned in this class to your life?
  
- **Conclusion**
  - The conclusion paragraph should wrap up your essay by restating (in different words) the thesis given in your intro paragraph. It should also summarize the main point of each body paragraph.
  - Your conclusion should end by explaining how your more advanced "sociological imagination" will impact your life going forward.

### **Nuts and Bolts Requirements**

- **Length: 3 – 4 pages typed (700-1000 words)**
- **Formatting: Times New Roman, size 12, Double Spaced, 1-inch margins**
- **Correct spelling, grammar, punctuation (Final draft form)**

### **Due Date and Turning In**

- **Your essay is due on: Tuesday 1/16**
- **Turn in to eBackpack assignment titled "Final Exam Essay"**
- **This is your FINAL EXAM, as such, late essays WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED unless under extraordinary circumstances.**

### **Academic Honesty**

- **Any plagiarism (even one sentence copied from the internet or written by anybody other than YOU) will result in a zero on the assignment WITHOUT the opportunity for make-up.**