

## OBSERVATIONAL STUDY

METHODS OF SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH

### OBSERVATION ASSIGNMENT

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR OBSERVATIONAL STUDY

To be able to do social research, you must observe people either formally or informally. Our observation assignment will involve informal observation (that way we do not have to get people's permission). Make sure to retain all parts of the assignment because this stretches over the entire semester, and you will need all parts to complete it at the end. Make sure to let me know if you have any questions. Good luck and have fun!

#### PART ONE – NATURALISTIC OBSERVATION

YOUR FIRST STEP IS TO *OBSERVE* - FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS LISTED.

1. Go to a public place within the Mall of GA (like the Food Court) and sit down for a minimum of one hour. Make sure to pick a place that you have either never been or is a version of a place you frequent but is in a different geographic area than you usually frequent. (If you want to observe people in Starbucks, don't do your observation at a store you go to as a customer). You can be adventurous with this; go somewhere different from where you would normally go (please note, however, safety is an issue. Do not go somewhere that either obviously puts you in danger or even makes you feel like you are in danger).
2. As you sit there for at least an hour, observe what the people around you are doing (so obviously, you must pick a spot that has a lot of people).
3. Take notes. I expect you to be constantly scribbling while you are there. You can take a few minutes to orient yourself in the beginning, but otherwise you should be always writing something down. I'm not telling you what to write; just write what you observe. I would say you should have at least 2 full pages of notes in-order to obtain enough information to write this paper.



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### PART TWO – RE-WRITE AND SUBMIT YOUR WORK

(25% OF ASSIGNMENT GRADE)

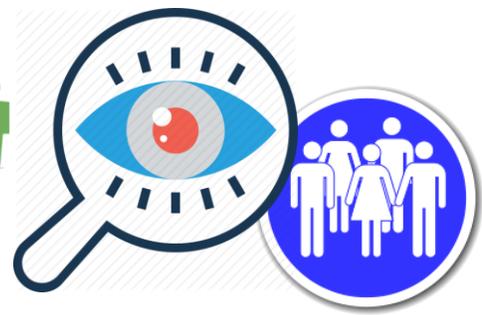
1. Rewrite your notes when you come back home (it's best to do this immediately; otherwise cryptic notes that you wrote yourself may become incomprehensible when it comes time to write your paper).
2. Rewrite your notes up into a sequence form. The form is your choice; it can be either chronological (i.e., at 12:04 pm this happened) or sectional (all of one kind of behavior, then a section about another kind of behavior).
3. Once you have it all nicely typed up, you will title this assignment **"OBSERVATIONAL ASSIGNMENT PART 2"**.
4. Class time will be allocated for the purpose of word processing.
5. You will submit this via the Assignment Submitter by Friday of the following week.

### PART THREE – THE SOCIOLOGICAL IMAGINATION

(75% OF ASSIGNMENT GRADE)

Here is where the sociology comes in. Now you are going to label what you observed with actual sociological terms.

1. Re-read your original observation notes and your original observation part one.
2. You are now going to review your original notes, but this time you are going to apply your sociological knowledge that you have been learning.
3. I expect you to apply **AT LEAST FIVE** specific sociological concepts throughout this paper.
4. I expect you to use **SPECIFIC** sociological terms and theoretical concepts. By the time, this assignment is due; you will have read many chapters and have had lectures on them. I expect that you will be able to section out specific examples of different



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- sociological phenomena and label them appropriately. I also expect you to expand upon each sociological concept.
5. The main things I am looking for in this paper is your ability to appropriately apply sociological concepts to your observation and to accurately explain the meaning of each course concept in your own words.
  6. At the end of the paper, write TWO paragraphs comparing what you observed as an untrained sociology student with what you are now able to identify in your notes after taking the course. What are the differences (besides the obvious I didn't know sociology in the beginning) between the two? Basically, what did you learn in this course? Wrap this paper up explaining how your point of view may have changed and what you noticed now that you have taken this class.
  7. Once you have it all nicely typed up, you will title this assignment **"OBSERVATION ASSIGNMENT PART 3"**.
  8. Class time will be allocated for word processing.
  9. You will submit this document on paper.
  10. I will provide you a date for submission later.

### FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS

Create a cover page for your project:

- Last Name, First Name
- WGHS Sociology
- Title - **"OBSERVATIONAL ASSIGNMENT PART 3"**
- Due date

Completed papers should include:

# Sociology



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- A minimum of 7 paragraphs – 5 paragraphs detailing your observations and 2 paragraphs detailing your reflections
- Typed
- Double-spaced
- 12-point (Times New Roman font in black ink) with 1” margins.
- Papers must be stapled
- Pages MUST be numbered
- Grammar, spelling, and format are important. Be sure to use your spell/grammar check and proofread your work. Proper spelling & grammar are important indicators of a well-prepared paper. Excessive errors will result in a reduction of points.
- This is an academic paper; therefore, the explanations must be written in formal language (avoid slang and limit contractions, such as can't, don't, and won't).
- Late papers will be subject to the Late Submission rules.