SOC 222: RESEARCH PAPER
Prof. Rose

Your research paper for Family Phenomena is due at the beginning of class on Tuesday, Nov. 21. The papers should be approximately 8-10 pages, double-spaced using ASA citation style. You will want to present a clear thesis. This need not necessarily be at the very beginning of the paper. "Guided by a clear understanding of the point you wish to argue, you can spark your reader's curiosity by first asking questions—the very questions that may have guided you in your research—and carefully building a case for the validity of your idea. Or you can start with a provocative observation, inviting your audience to follow your own path of discover" (Strategies for Essay Writing).

General Tips for reading and editing the first drafts of your own paper (as well as for peer review). Pretend someone else has written it ☺. Read the entire paper quickly first; then read it again more carefully and answer the following questions.

1) Is the purpose of the essay clear? Has the author of the paper formulated his/her own and specific thesis?

1) Thesis Statement: Can you find it? What is it?

2) Does each paragraph relate to the thesis of the paper? Indicate any paragraphs that do not.

3) Are all paragraphs in the body of the paper (except transitional or other short paragraphs used for emphasis) fully developed? Note any which are not---e.g. ones that leave you hanging, bring up ideas that aren't carried through, don't draw conclusions from the material that they present, etc....

4) Are the major points supported by sufficient explanation/expansion of ideas, and specific and relevant supporting evidence? Do any ideas seem vague? What can the writer explain more thoroughly that would help the reader?

5) Is the paper well organized? Does the argument flow?

6).Is the research thoroughly documented? Is the research integrated into the paper, or does it "weigh down" the paper, obscuring the writer's ideas? How could the writer more successfully integrate sources into his or her paper?

7) Does the conclusion adequately develop the implications of the paper's thesis? Is the conclusion a conclusion or a mere summary? Does the conclusion refer back to the introduction, helping to round out the essay?

9) What is especially interesting or effective about this draft? Is the writing lively

and interesting? Does the writer use vigorous verbs rather than a lot of passive phrases (there is/there are/ it is....). What are the most interesting/convincing sections of the paper? After reading it, what do you most clearly remember about it?

A very good source for tips for writing in Sociology can be found at the University of North Carolina's site: http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/index.html). A more general overview can be found at (http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/index.html and at Harvard's Writing Center Site: "Strategies for Essay Writing" can be found (**http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~wricntr/documents/Overvu.html**.
These are excellent resources – they are not meant to overwhelm you but to aid you.

ASA CITATION STYLE

Please use the American Sociological Association citation style for your papers in this course. Cite sources in the text parenthetically, using the author's last name and year of publication. Only cite page numbers if you are using a direct quote from the source or a specific piece of data from it.

Example:

No one particular family form exists (Coontz 2006; Skolnick 2002). "In fact, only 10% of contemporary American families include a breadwinner father, a stay-at-home mother, with children in the household" (Skolnick 2002: 14). All sources referred to in the text should be included in a bibliography at the end of your paper. The reference list includes the complete bibliographical citation for the works you have consulted. It should be arranged in alphabetical order by author's last name. If you use more than one work by the same author, alphabetize all works by the same author by the title of the work cited. You should not number citations in the bibliography.

Here are several sample citations for different kinds of works:

Books

Fix, Michael and Jeffrey S. Passel. 1994. Immigration and Immigrants: Setting the Record Straight. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute.

Chapters in edited volumes

Gelbard, Alene H. and Marion Carter. 1997. "Mexican Immigration and the U.S. Population." Pp. 117-144 in At the Crossroads: Mexico and U.S. Immigration Policy, edited by Frank D. Bean, et al. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers.

Academic journal articles

Brannon, Jeffery T. and G. William Lucker. 1989. "The Impact of Mexico's Economic Crisis on the Demographic Composition of the Maquiladora Labor Force." Journal of Borderlands Studies 4: 39-70.

Newspaper and magazine articles

Guiles, Melinda and Krystal Miller. 1990. "Mazda and Mitsubishi-Chrysler Venture Cut Output, Following Big Three's Lead." Wall Street Journal, January 12, pp. A2, A12.

Government documents

U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1960. Characteristics of the Population. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

Electronic Sources

A web page:

American Sociological Association. 1997. "Call for Help: Social Science Knowledge on Race Racism, and Race Relations." Washington, DC: American Sociological Assocation. Retreived October 15, 1997 (http://www.asanet.org/racecall.htm).

A newspaper article:

Goldstein, Amy. 1997. "Dying Patients' Care Varies Widely by Place, Study Says." Washington Post, October 15. Retrieved October 25, 1997 http://www.washingtonpost.com/ wp-srv/WpPlate/1997-10/15/0661-101597-idx.html).

More citation guides are available from the Sociology website: http:www.dickinson.edu/~socio, the library page, and/or the ASA (www.asanet.org) websites.