**SOC 212 – Research Paper Assignment.**

For this research paper, students will explore a contemporary social problem facing a social institution, such as the family, health care system, politics, or economy. This paper will be **8 – 10 pages**, **double-spaced, in APA format, with clear and appropriate citations**.

APA formatting requires title page, abstract, and a reference page. Please note: the 8 – 10 page requirement refers to the actual *content* of the paper, and **does not include** the title page, abstract or reference page.

Final papers should be free from spelling and grammatical errors. Students should have at least **5** different resources for this assignment. Appropriate resources include scholarly and academic articles, government websites, and book chapters. **No Wikipedia, please**. I strongly encourage students to search academic databases, related to sociological topics. **These can be found through BCC Library**. Some examples of academic databases include:

**CQ Researcher, Academic OneFile, Academic Search Premier, Criminal Justice Collection, Expanded Academic ASAP,** and the **Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection.**

This assignment should take the form of either an ***Argumentative*** or ***an Analytical*** research paper. From [http://libguides.piedmont.edu/content.php?pid=181573&sid=1553228,](http://libguides.piedmont.edu/content.php?pid=181573&amp;sid=1553228) here is a

description of each:

**Argumentative**

In an argumentative research paper, a student both states the topic they will be exploring and immediately establishes the position they will argue regarding that topic in a [thesis statement](http://libguides.piedmont.edu/aecontent.php?pid=181573&amp;sid=1528084). This type of paper hopes to persuade its reader to adopt the view presented.

**Analytical**

An analytical research paper states the topic that the writer will be exploring, usually in the form of a question, initially taking a neutral stance. The body of the paper will present multifaceted information and, ultimately, the writer will state their conclusion, based on

the information that has unfolded throughout the course of the essay. This type of paper hopes to offer a well-supported critical analysis without necessarily persuading the reader to any particular way of thinking.

**Reminder! Important Due Dates:**

**Proposed Research Topic June 23rd, 11:59pm**

**FINAL PAPER August 18th, 11:59pm**

**Grading Rubric for Research paper:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Grading*  *Criteria* | Unsatisfactory  (D grade) | Needs  Improvement  (C grade) | Satisfactory  (B grade) | Excellent  (A grade) |
| Organization | The research paper lacks organization, and main points are not clear. | The research paper has some organization, and a basic thesis statement. | The research paper has good organization, but does not consistently follow the thesis. | The research paper has logical organization  around a clearly developed thesis. |
| Evidence | The essay does not use evidence to support thesis. | The use of evidence is limited and does not support the thesis. | There is good evidence that supports most points in thesis. | The thesis points are clearly supported by strong  evidence/examples. |
| Analysis | The paper does not address how the evidence relates to thesis. | The analysis of the evidence does not clearly support the thesis. | The analysis explains how the evidence supports the most of the points in thesis. | The analysis demonstrates a strong relationship between the evidence and the thesis. |

Final grades on research papers will also depend upon the student’s correct usage of APA format. Here is the link to BCC’s guide for

APA: [http://www.bristol.mass.edu/media/bcc-](http://www.bristol.mass.edu/media/bcc-website/students/writingcenter/tips/apa%2Cformat%2Cupdate%2C2011.pdf) website/students/writingcenter/tips/apa,format,update,2011.pdf