

C. SOC 120: MEDIA RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT

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Course: Sociology 120: Ethnic and Race Relations

Project: Media Research Assignment

Description: The purpose of this assignment is to help you practice working with the sociological ideas found in this prompt. You are also expected to apply these ideas to a scripted television show. Finally, you are expected to produce a paper that is clear, focused, and well organized.

Assignment:

1. For this assignment, please watch one hour (i.e. at least 1 episode) of a scripted television show. Netflix, Amazon, Hulu, etc. are acceptable.
2. In addition, take detailed field notes while you watch. Your notes will provide the data or evidence you will need to write the assignment. You will need to have a hard copy of your notes ready for peer review on April 18th. Final papers without notes for peer review on that day will lose five (5) points. You will also have to turn in your notes with your paper. (If you have written notes, you can give them to me in class on the due date).

You can make the assignment exclusively about the show or you can also discuss the advertisements if you find something interesting. Pay attention to the types of roles played by the racial and ethnic groups depicted on the show and/or advertisements that you are watching. Try to view a show that you do not watch on a regular basis. The show should be contemporary, with episodes released within the past five years.

3. Based on your notes, write a 4-6 page paper that critiques the depiction of race and ethnicity on the show that you watched. Be sure to include a brief description of the show. Papers will be assessed on how effectively you apply the sociological ideas/concepts in this prompt to the show that you have picked. Be sure to identify a specific focus in your paper. What did you discover that was interesting that you could focus on for the paper? Was there a role or relationship that you found repeated multiple times? Were there any minorities in lead roles? What about a recurring theme? Use information from your fieldnotes to support your findings.

Among the sociological ideas that you should address, think about how the television show/advertisements that you watched reinforce or challenge racial stereotypes. You should also discuss how race/ethnicity matters for the groups depicted. For example, are the racial and ethnic groups depicted assimilated into the larger American culture? Do you see signs of continued racism, inequality, or discrimination?

Suppose you are a highly-paid consultant for the T.V. show that you viewed. How could they improve their depictions of racial and ethnic minorities? Are there stereotypes they should avoid? Are certain groups underrepresented or excluded completely that you feel should be included?

General Requirements:

Late papers will be penalized half a letter grade for each day they are late.

Your paper needs to be:

- Typed with a standard 12-point font
- Double-spaced
- Have regular 1-inch margins on all sides
- Have page numbers Please proofread your paper, spelling and grammatical errors could hurt your grade. It should also include an introduction, body, and conclusion.
- Your paper should have a title that alludes to the subject matter being dealt with in the paper. Any ideas drawn from lecture, readings, or outside sources must be cited in the text of your paper.

Make sure you adhere to university guidelines regarding plagiarism. Cases of plagiarism will be taken directly to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs.

If you are unsure what plagiarism is and how to avoid it, please come see me or visit the library's website: <http://csus.libguides.com/plagiarism>.

Due Date: Papers are due by 10:00pm Thursday, May 9th. Please submit on Canvas in the .doc or .docx file formats used by Microsoft "Word". If necessary, a PDF is acceptable. Please make sure you have attached the correct file!