

Developed by Trina Smith (smit1603@umn.edu).. Parts of assignment adapted from Professor Erin Kelly's assignment.
Please cite appropriately if used.

Soc 3501
Family History Final Paper
Outline

Directions: The following is a suggested outline of how to write your final paper. Though you do not have to follow the sections and outline I suggest, you must include all the information I request in each section. In other words, if a different outline or sections make sense to you, you can use them but you must include the information I ask for here. Paper should be around 8-10 pages.

Introduction: (5 points)

Introduce your topic here.

Why are you interested in studying this topic?

Why did you do the family history paper option?

Give a general statement on how your topic and family history analysis relates to sociological ideas and concepts.

Methods: (10 points)

Describe your data.

- 1) If you did interviews with family members,
 - a) tell who you interviewed (DO NOT SAY THE REAL NAMES: USE PSEUDONYMS.) Mention the person's relationship to you.
 - b) tell how many people you interviewed.
 - c) Describe the interviews a bit. Were they formal and structured? Were they semi-formal and conversational?

- 2) If you wrote a personal narrative,
 - a) how did you decide what you would write about?
 - b) did you talk to anyone else (i.e. in your family) before you wrote your story.
 - c) Though this narrative is told from your view, did you try to include other people's views? How did you do this?

Your Data: (15 points)

- 1) For the personal narrative, tell your "story" in this section.
- 2) For the people using interviews, tell the "story" you learned from your interviews. Also add in your perspective also. Is it different or the same from your interviews? Why?
- 3) Give enough detail that the "story" makes sense, but do not get off topic. You want to leave room and time for you to analyze your story.

Analysis: (30 points)

Integrate the story or information from your interview with sociological concepts, ideas, and research. This is a place to discuss the two articles or book chapters that are required. Also bring in information from class (lectures and the reader). What I want here is for you to put your experience within a sociological framework.

Some things to consider for this section are:

- a) How does a sociological framework help you to make sense of your family's experiences?
- b) If your family's experience is different from what sociological research points to, discuss why you think this is?
- c) What topics in class have made you think about this topic and your family. Bring them in here and discuss why.
- d) When you are discussing information from outside readings, make sure to give a short concise summary of the article/chapter when you talk about. Is this a theoretical article? Did the authors do research? If so, with who and how?
- e) For integrating class readings and lecture, just make sure you are making the connections clear to your ideas.

Reflexive Part: (10 points)

In this section, I am asking you take a step back and examine yourself in the process of researching and writing this paper.

1. How did it feel to put a sociological framework on your family's experiences? Why did you feel a certain way? (i.e. in some ways you are examining your family life as "data". Did this feel awkward?)
2. If you felt emotions while writing this paper and researching your family, how did you deal with this?
3. If there are other reflexive issues you want to discuss here, feel free.

Conclusion: (20 points)

1. What do you conclude from your analysis and research (i.e. integrating your interviews and/or personal narrative within a sociological framework)?
2. What did you learn about families?
3. Look back at the course objectives on the syllabus. How did your research help you think and be informed about these?

Here are the objectives from the syllabus:

1. Understand why the term sociology of families is a better term than sociology of the family.
2. Understand the diversity and similarities of families in our society, both globally and locally.
3. Understand the social location and history of their own families better.
4. Understand that the family is a social institution and its effects.

5. Understand that the family is a gendered institution
6. Understand the diversity of family forms and different definitions of family.
7. Have a sociologically informed answer to the question of why the family is seen as a fundamental unit to society.

Grammar, Organization, Citations, etc: (10 points)

Is the paper organized? Does it flow well?

Did the student use sections?

How is the grammar?

Did they cite in ASA format?

Did they include a bibliography?