Interview Project  
Marriage & Family

The term community is one of the most elusive and vague in sociology and is by now largely without specific meaning. At the minimum it refers to a collection of people in a geographical area. Three other elements may also be present in any usage.

(1) Communities may be thought of as collections of people with a particular social structure; there are, therefore, collections which are not communities. Such a notion often equates community with rural or pre-industrial society and may, in addition, treat urban or industrial society as positively destructive. (2) A sense of belonging or community spirit. (3) All the daily activities of a community, work and non-work, take place within the geographical area, which is self-contained. Different accounts of community will contain any or all of these additional elements.

Purpose: When studying sociology an important tool to have is the ability to see the world from multiple different perspectives. This assignment is designed for you to experience your own area in a different light by understanding a community different than your own. Often we can become engrossed in our own lives that we neglect our neighbors, even to the point that we do not believe certain groups of people even exist in our immediate surroundings. For instance, because our area is heavily protestant many people believe there are no other faith options, but this is not the case.

Requirements:

Research a community different than your own (a different socioeconomic class, a different religion, a different sexual/gender orientation, a different family type: step family, blended family, extended family, etc.)

Interview someone from this community (face-to-face, phone, Skype, etc will work)

Write a reflection paper on this experience

Reflection Paper Guidelines

Your paper should be in APA format. This means it must include some of the following:

A title page

Page numbers

Running header

Headings that separate the topics/paragraphs

Times New Roman size 12 font throughout paper

Reference page

Double spaced

Paper format:

Introduction (1-2 paragraphs)

I suggest introducing your own community and then discuss the purpose of the assignment. Then introduce the other community you sought to understand.

The Interview Process (1 paragraph)

Briefly describe the interview. Discuss how you felt and responded (reflect) during the interview. You may also want to mention what you wish you had said or asked after you had finished the interview.

Attending a meeting (1-2 paragraphs) \*if you were able to complete this task

Briefly describe the event and how you felt while attending. Be reflective.

Compare and Contrast (2-3 paragraphs) \*this section should include sociological terms

This is the “meat” of your paper. Compare, what is similar, about your community vs. the community you are researching. (1 paragraph). Contrast, what is different, about your community and the community you are researching. (1 paragraph or more)

What did you learn? (1-3 paragraphs)

Demonstrate what you learned from this project by describing at least three items you learned. Be reflective about the contrasting differences between the communities. You may also consider discussing the importance of this project to your future career, family, and community. You may also consider discussing why everyone should engage in this type of behavior of meeting new and different people (what is the benefit of this?).

\*You must have at least 1 scholarly source to meet the minimum requirements

By following these guidelines to a minimum you should have an average paper. Based on the spacing requirements of APA and the different sections listed above I would assume most papers would be at least 2 pages in length.