Social Change and Homelessness in the US
Due April 14th (5 PM)
(100 points)

Table 1: Decomposition Analysis (Scenario 1)

Education level	2000 Homelessness rate	% in category	2017 Homelessness rate	% in category			Compositional effect	Behavioral Effect		
< High School	18	20	16	12			-1.36	-0.32	-1.68	86%
High School	12	35	15	30			-0.68	0.98	0.30	-15%
Some College	8	20	5	25			0.33	-0.68	-0.35	18%
Coll grad	5	20	3	25			0.20	-0.45	-0.25	13%
Grad school	2	5	1.6	8			0.05	-0.03	0.03	-1%
						TOTAL CHANGE				
US POPULATION	10.5	100	8.5	100		-2.0	-1.456	-0.4960		
							74.6%	25.4%		

Homelessness in the US declined from 10.5% in 2000 to 8.5% in 2017. You wish to understand why this decline occurred and (if possible) how to accelerate the trend. Your answer should be in essay format, between 3-5 pages, typed, double-spaced, 12-point font.

1) **Theory (25 points):** Draw from three of the ten sociological ideas to help interpret the decline of homelessness in the USA. Your answer should include references to the readings associated with the Ten Big Ideas.

2) **Scenario 1 (25 points):** Use the data in table 1 to answer the following questions:
   a. What was the national homelessness rate in 2000?
   b. What is the change in homelessness between 2000 and 2017?
   c. What is the % of this change due to change in educational composition of the US population?
   d. Which education group(s) made the largest contribution to the change?
   e. Which education group(s) "braked" the change?
   f. Overall, are these results are most consistent with a consensus or conflict perspective on homelessness? Justify your answer based on an analysis of the behavioral and compositional change.

3) **Scenario 2 (25 points):** Suppose the levels of group- specific homelessness and group size in 2017 had been changed to the results in table 2. Run a decomposition analysis for the new data (just type the numbers in the Excel file provided on BB; the calculations are automated). Answer the same questions about:
   a. The national homelessness rate in 2000.
   b. The change in homelessness between 2000 and 2017.

      c. The % of this change due to change in educational composition of the US population.

      d. The education group(s) that made the largest contribution to the change.

      e. The education group(s) that "braked" the change.

      f. Now, do you think that these results are most consistent with a consensus or conflict perspective on homelessness?

4) **Policy (25 points):** Policy recommendations to reduce homelessness would vary depending on whether we think that the change is most consistent with a consensus or a conflict perspective. Based on your decomposition analysis, address the following:

      a. One policy recommendation to reduce homelessness under scenario 1.

      b. One policy recommendation to reduce homelessness under scenario 2.

Table 2: Decomposition Analysis (Scenario 2)

	2017	
	Homeless ness rate	% in category
< High School	16	12
High School	10	30
Some College	10	25
Coll grad	8	25
Grad school	5.0	8