

LAKE LAND COLLEGE

Memos

Sociology of Deviant Behavior

Dr. Medley-Rath

Fall 2013

You will complete ten memos over the course the semester. Memos will range from 1-5 pages. Several of the memos will help form the basis of your research paper. This handout includes the complete guidelines.

MEMO #1

Three Perspectives & Roundtables

Due August 29

Each of you will be assigned one of the Three Perspectives (CD #3, #4, or #5). You will prepare a one page double-spaced summary of your assigned perspective. In your summary, you will explain the author's perspective. You must be prepared to explain the perspective to your classmates. You will be placed in groups of 3 to discuss your chapter. With your group, you will complete a worksheet comparing the three perspectives to be turned in at the end of class.

MEMO #2

Six Theories

Due September 3 & 5

Each of you will be assigned one of the six Theories of Deviance (CD #6, #7, #8, #9, #10, or #11). You will prepare a one page double-spaced summary of your assigned theory. You need to have this summary prepared for September 3. In your summary, you will explain the author's theory. You must be prepared to explain the theory to your classmates. You will be arranged speed-dating style. You will have 7-10 minutes to explain your theories to each other before moving to the next student. On day 2, you will be placed into groups of 3-4. You will make sure that your Theory Worksheet is complete, where you will both explain each theory and compare them with one another. On September 5, you will turn in both Memo #2 and the worksheet.

MEMO #3

Research Paper Topic & Plan

Due September 17

Your research topic and plan should be 5-7 sentences in which you explain what you plan to study. What research question do you hope to answer?? You need to identify the deviant behavior and country for comparison. Examples of possible topics include: home birth, tattoos, premarital sex, alcohol use before age 21, obesity, or marijuana use. As part of your research plan, you need to identify five key words that might be

useful search terms for your topic. For example, if my topic were home birth, my key search terms might include: midwifery, hospital birth, home birth, medicalization of pregnancy, and birthing centers. You will turn in your topic and plan (Memo #3) for my approval on September 17.

MEMO #4

Reference Page

Due September 24

You will complete a brief reference page with at least three sources you plan to use for your research paper. A minimum of three of your references need to come from ProQuest database, which can be accessed through Lake Land Library's website. At least one of your references must come from one of the following journals:

- *American Sociological Review*
- *The International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*
- *Qualitative Sociology*
- *Social Psychology Quarterly*
- *Sociological Theory*

These journals can all be accessed through ProQuest. Your reference page needs to be in APA format¹:

Author, A. A., Author, B. B., & Author, C. C. (Year). Title of article. *Title of Periodical*, volume number(issue number), pages. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/xx.xxx/yyyy>

As part of this memo requirement, you are also required to get a library card at the Lake Land College library. You must provide verification that you did this on the day you submit Memo #4. (You can photocopy your library card or scan it and attach it to your assignment.) Memo #4 is due September 24.

¹ Purdue Online Writing Lab. 2013. "Reference List: Articles in Periodicals." Retrieved August 13, 2013 (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/07/>).

MEMO #5

Research Memo

Due October 3

You will write a one-page double spaced research memo about one of the peer-reviewed articles you are using for your research paper. You will turn in a copy of the article with this memo. In groups of 3-4, you will present your memo to your classmates. You should use the following guidelines to structure this memo:²

- In the first paragraph, identify the issue, state the purpose of the memo, and give the main message.
- Then, provide background information. You might provide data trends showing why the issue is important and succinctly describe previous efforts to address the issue. Don't go overboard here.
- Summarize the Study Methods, Limitations, and Results: Summarize the study using understandable and engaging language. (Be sure to provide the full citation for the article here or elsewhere in the memo.) Use active voice whenever possible; it's more engaging than passive voice. Include a discussion of study limitations, and be sure to state whether/how those limitations affect the interpretation and implications of the findings. Present relevant study results clearly and concisely; they should be easy to understand and remember. Present findings without copying them directly from the article. Identify the implications of the findings you have presented.
- Conclude the memo with a one or two sentence summary of the main points.

Memo #5 is due October 3.

² Johns Hopkins University. 2012. "Structuring a memo to summarize research findings." Retrieved August 4, 2013. (http://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/womens-and-childrens-health-policy-center/de/policy_brief/DE%20Module%20Research%20Memo%20Example.pdf).

MEMO #6

The Central Park Five

Due October 26

We will watch the film *The Central Park Five* in class. You will write a 1-2 page sociological analysis of the film. It is expected that you will take notes about the while watching the film and any discussion we have about the film. These notes will assist your analysis of the film. You are not writing a summary of the film or a reaction to the film, but will structure your analysis around one of the following writing prompts:³

1. Think back to the news clips shown at the beginning of the film and the comments made about New York City. Quickly brainstorm what you saw and heard. Now compose a one- or two-sentence statement that describes New York City in the 1980s. What seems to be on most people's mind about New York City at this time? Discuss how the circumstance of a white woman allegedly attacked by black and Hispanic teenagers played into the existing fears and prejudices of New Yorkers at the time. How does this relate to the concept of moral panics?
2. Initially, Raymond Santana, Kevin Richardson, and three other teenagers were taken to the Central Park Precinct on the night of April 19, 1989, for unlawful assembly. They were told they would be given a ticket to family court and sent home. Upon hearing that a woman had been raped and beaten in Central Park, however, the police began to aggressively question the teens with accusations of their involvement. Why do you think the police believed these boys were involved? Do you feel the police were out of line or just doing their job and following the investigation? How did the suspects' race, economic, and social status influence their legal defense and how they were perceived by the jury?

³ WETA. 2013. *The Central Park Five* Discussion Guide. Retrieved August 17, 2013. (<http://www-tc.pbs.org/kenburns/centralparkfive/media/pdf/central-park-five-discussion-guide.pdf>).

MEMO #7

Three-Page Research Paper Draft

Due October 31

You will turn in a well-developed, three-page draft of your research paper in-progress. I will review your draft and we will use it as the basis of our Individual Meetings on your research paper. I will not focus on correcting spelling or grammar, but will offer constructive feedback on the content of your paper. Memo #7 is due October 31.

MEMO #8

Book Review

Due November 19

You will write a 1-2 page book review related to the subject of this course or a book that relates to your Global Deviance paper. Your book review should address the following points:

- Why did you choose the book?
- How does the book relate to class?
- What were the author's main arguments?
- What is one thing that you found particularly interesting about the book?

On the day your book review is due, we will spend the class period "speed-dating." You will pair up and take turns discussing your book. Once the exchange is over, you will pair up with someone new and discuss your book with a new partner. You will discuss your book with at least three other students. You will need to bring your book with you to class on the day the book reviews are due so that I can see the book you read. It is also sometimes helpful to show the book to the people you are talking with. If you need to return the book to the library before this date, you need to make other arrangements to show the book to me.

MEMO #9

Five-Page Research Paper Draft

Due November 26

You will bring **three** copies of your five-page research paper for your classmates to critique to class on November 21. You will have an opportunity to ask each other questions and give feedback to one another. You will complete a “Peer Editing Worksheet” for each paper. The “Peer Editing Worksheets” are due November 26. On this date, you will break into groups with the people who reviewed your writing to go over each other’s feedback.

MEMO #10

Gang Leader for a Day Reading Response

Due December 5

You will write a 1-2 page reading response on *Gang Leader for a Day*. Your reading response should be framed around one of these questions:

- How would you respond if a graduate student from an elite university turned up at your door and announced his intention to study you? How would your reaction differ from what Sudhir Venkatesh encountered in *Gang Leader for a Day*?
- J.T. constantly rationalizes the activities of the Black Kings and maintains that the gang confers more benefits than detriments on the community. Is there any truth to his self-justifications? Are there ways in which the community would be worse off if the BKs were suddenly to disappear?
- Did reading *Gang Leader for a Day* make you more or less sympathetic to the problems of America’s urban poor? Why?

MECHANICS:

Length: Your paper length will vary and is specified under each memo’s instructions. If no length is specified, then there is no length requirement. A title, abstract, or reference page do not count towards the length requirement.

References: You are not expected to use any additional references except for those memos prepared for your research paper. Any references used, should be formatted in APA format.

Other matter:

- All written work must be typed, include page numbers, double-spaced, 12-point font, 1 or 1.5 inch margins.
- Please spell-check and read over your work before turning it in. No more than two spelling or grammatical errors per page.
- Written work should conform to APA format.
- Keep a back-up copy of your work so you do not lose it.
- No late work will be accepted or accepted elsewhere.
- Each submission will be submitted onto Instructure Canvas by the start of class in which it is due and will not be accepted elsewhere. For those assignments with additional requirements, you may turn the additional requirements (e.g., a photocopy of your library card) in at the start of class.
- Double-check to make sure your work uploads correctly.