

Group Fact Sheet

To start your semester project you and your group members will select a sociological issue to research and design a “fact sheet”. A Fact Sheet provides a brief summary of the important data, research, facts and information on your social problem. The purpose of this assignment is to give students the opportunity to conduct in-depth research about a sociological issue. This project will provide you with the opportunity to access the GSU library’s website to find academic and scholarly resources (academic journals, books, government reports and research reports).

Keep in Mind:

This project is designed to look at how social systems affect individual behaviors. So taking a person blame approach (as discussed in class) is inappropriate for this assignment. This is a class and project focused on *social* problems.

Format:

The fact sheet will be 3 pages in length (not including your reference page), **single spaced** 12 point font, and 1” margins. The design of the Fact Sheets is flexible as long as the required elements are present. Your challenge is to make something that is easy for anyone to follow, visually arresting, and creative.

Resources:

Examples of Fact Sheets are posted online. I will be available to answer questions and to review your assignment prior to completion. Please do not hesitate to talk to me if you are having any difficulties! All students must be actively engaged in their group project and you will have the opportunity to evaluate your team members.

Requirements:

Your fact sheet should include a minimum of 10 research sources, 5 of which must be scholarly journals (e.g. American Journal of Sociology, Annual Review of Sociology, Social Forces, etc.). The additional 5 sources must come from either books, government websites (i.e. end in .gov), or another source that is pre-approved by the instructor. **If you want to use a website that does not end in .gov you must ask the instructor for pre-approval.** Non-.gov sites that aren’t pre-approved will not count toward your 10 references. Websites such as Wikipedia, WebMD, About.com, etc. are not peer reviewed or even reliable and will not be allowed in this project. All sources must be published within the last 10 years. All references should be cited using ASA format. Go to <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/583/1/> for ASA style guide

The Fact Sheets must include the following:

1) Facts and Trends

Include the latest information and statistical trends related to your topic.

- Facts and trends should be up to date and provide a general overview of the prevalence, incidence, and/or impact of the group’s topic in the U.S. This is the most substantive part of the fact sheet.
- Each fact and/trend must be supported by at least one scholarly source.
- Compare the U.S. with other nations, if appropriate.
- Report state and local facts (if available) in subsections.

2) Issues and Perspectives

Include relevant issues related to your topic.

- It is important to include different perspectives and opposing arguments
- Represent arguments as different perspectives rather than facts

3) National, State, and Local Resources

Include a list of resources where a reader can find additional information about your topic.

PROPOSAL (10 pts) -- Due Thursday, September. 8th
(At Least 1 Full Page)

Select a focused paper topic that relates to social problems.

- Describe your topic area, why it is an important area to study, and why this is a social problem (that is who suffers from this?)
- Identify three ways that your social issue is affected by social factors. That is, tell me how this is bigger than a individual problem or a problem of personal responsibility
- Indicate two to three questions that you would like to answer about this topic

FACT SHEET (90 pts Total) -- Due Thursday, October. 13th
(At Least 3 Full Pages)

Organization and Clarity (10 pts)

- Fact sheets must be neat, clear, and presented in an organized manner
- The paper should be typed, single-spaced; 12-point font, 1" margins, and a length of 3 pages not including the reference page (please number all pages & staple!)
- Appropriate grammar and spelling
- Avoids biased language

Fact Sheet Content (50 pts)

- The majority of your points are allocated to the actual content of the Fact Sheet. Students must have a developed, well researched Fact Sheet that provides a thorough examination of their topic
- Includes: facts and trends, issues and perspectives, and national, state, and local resources

Citations/References (5 pts)

- Includes at least 10 current references (published within the past 10 years)
- Appropriate use of ASA citation style (ASA Guide: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/583/1/>)
- Reliable sources (scholarly journals or government agencies)

Team Evaluation (25 pts)

- Each group member will be required to complete an evaluation (provided by the professor toward the end of the semester) of their experience and team
- If a student fails to participate in any meaningful way they may, at the instructors discretion, receive a zero for the entire assignment.

Note: If one section's negative impact on the paper exceeds the points allotted in the grading rubric I reserve the right to subtract additional points from the overall total. However, this rarely happens.