**FINAL SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE/SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY PAPER:**

**50 points**

The **Sociological Perspective** helps us view social phenomenon and behavior by guiding us into understanding how the social contexts in which people live, affect and influence their lives. In other words, sociologists try to understand how our social location, the various social groups we happen to belong to such as gender, race/ethnicity, social class, age, culture, country, or location in the world, influence our lives, life issues, and our behavior and others behavior toward us even in circumstances beyond our control. Sociologists help us see how general patterns in particular people groups shape our life experiences. The sociological perspective helps us to see how public issues in society affect private issues in people’s lives.

Following this line of thought, you will provide an analysis of the documentary “Trouble the Water,” applying the sociological perspective in understanding who was affected, how, and why, and who wasn’t affected in the same way, and how and why.

**Sociological Theory** is used to analyze and explain behavior and social phenomenon according to the assumptions of that theory. For example, macro theories view and explain large social patterns whereas micro theories focus on social interaction. More specifically, conflict theorists look at and explain social behavior by focusing on what they see as an unequally divided resources and the result of that inequality, functionalists explain human behavior and social institutions by examining the intended and unintended functions of that institution and how that impacts human behavior; symbolic interactionists analyze human behavior by examining how humans act toward things based on the meanings they have, as well as how meanings are socially derived through our interactions and yet are individually interpreted. **Please review theory guide handout.**

Following this line of thought on theory, you will select ONE theory of your choice to analyze and explain events in the documentary according to that theory. In other words, you will examine according to the theoretical assumptions, why those particular people were affected in those particular ways.

It is expected that your paper will be a minimum of 5 pages long, normal font, double-spacing, and college-level quality in terms of grammar and spelling. You will begin with:

* A brief summary of the documentary “Trouble the Water.” Limit to ONE paragraph.
* Then you will provide an explanation of what the sociological perspective is and how it is used to view and explain human behavior and social phenomenon in general**.**
* Then you will **apply** the sociological perspective to specific examples from the documentary. In other words, discuss how sociologists view the events from the documentary using the sociological perspective. Please include at least three examples of applying the sociological perspective to the events in the documentary.
* Then you will select ONE theory and provide a discussion of the assumptions of that theory using correct theory language. Please be thorough in your description of how the theory analyzes behavior based on its assumptions.
* Then you will apply that theory to examples from the documentary. In other words, you will analyze and explain why, according to your chosen theory, the events in the documentary were as they were. Please include at least three examples of applying the theory. Please use theory language to demonstrate that you understand how to apply the theory.

There is an expectation that your paper will demonstrate you thoroughly understand both the sociological perspective and one theory and are able to apply them—remember the sociological perspective IS NOT the theory. **This paper is worth 50 points. It must be submitted through Canvas (it will be scanned through VeriCite).**