RECOMMENDED STEPS FOR RESEARCHING and WRITING YOUR FINAL PAPER

**Research Question: “W**hat are the sociological or structural causes of DOMESTIC or (intimate partner) violence in America?”

IMPORTANT: Keep in mind that are you are being asked to research the SOCIOLOGICAL or STRUCTURAL causes of domestic violence, **not the psychological or biological ones.**

-- This means researching causes that have to do with society's institutions (e.g., the family, economy, religion), but also  causes that are connected to social groups and culture (such as social  norms, values, or even beliefs).

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Please follow these steps as they will help prepare you to collect your academic sources, and organize your ideas and writing in a clear and logical sequence.

Find **at least FIVE different** **academic sources, including books and scholarly journals** *not newspapers or magazines*, that attempt to answer the research question above.

Acceptable academic sources include books, textbooks, journal articles, and even e-books

**Websites are NOT acceptable academic sources**.

Save the APA citation for each source to use for the Bibliography or Works Cited page which will appear at the end of your assignment.

* You are asked to select only full-text journal articles from databases such as: Soc Index, Ebscohost and ProQuest.

**NOTE:Do not go into the databases and type: “social causes of domestic violence.” This will not get you results. Do some initial brainstorming at what some possible causes may be. Maybe you’re interested in whether family structure has any effect on violence. Searching “family structure” and “domestic violence” will get you better results.**

**II. How to Write and Organize the Research Paper**

**You are now ready to begin organizing and writing your research paper.**

**The paper MUST include the elements listed below. It would help your writing and your thinking process if you keep these elements organized in the following logical order and separated by clear headings:**

* **Introduction**
* ***Review of the Research\****
* **“Discussion” section\*\***
* **Conclusion\*\*\***

**\*HOW TO WRITE A “REVIEW OF THE RESEARCH”:**

Once you have collected your academic sources, and written an introduction, you are now asked to write a “*Review of the Research Literature” b*ased on the sources you found. A Review of the Research is simply a detailed summary and comparison of how the research you found answers your research question.

The best, and easiest, way to write up your research review is to organize it by “themes”. In other words, summarize the research you found by ***organizing your summary into separate themes or “answers”*** to your research question. If the research suggests there are say, five possible and different, social causes of domestic violence, then introduce and summarize each cause separately and clearly. Make sense?

The review of the research is not only a summary, but it also provides a *comparison* of different topical themes. That is, you are expected to recognize research studies that coincide and agree on the same themes, but you are also expected to point out research studies or themes that contrast or diverge with each other!

I will be looking closely at your writing to see if it is clear and organized into separate paragraphs.

NOTE:  As your write up the review of the literature, **you must provide the proper in-text citations or references to the authors of the research studies,** or else you will be accused of plagiarism and receive zero points for this assignment. You are asked to use APA style for citing your research sources. For further help on how to cite your sources in the body of the paper, please refer to

**\*\*WRITE A DISCUSSION SECTION:**

**Once you have summarized the research by how it addresses your research question, it is also important *to discuss and evaluate* the research in terms of how it helps us understand *our topic from a sociological perspective.* The best way to discuss, or evaluate the research is by making connections to *the theories of deviance* Which sociological theory or theories best applies to the research question? Does the research approach my research question from the perspective of labeling theory? Organizational theory or functionalism? Conflict theory? Or a combination of these?**

**\*\*\*WRITE A DETAILED CONCLUSION**:

Your conclusion should summarize, very briefly, what the research says about the research question. In your opinion, which of the various themes in the published research appear to provide the best explanation for the social cause(s) of domestic violence in America, and why?

I am looking for a well-articulated conclusion from you, not simple answers such as “I simply liked this research” and leave it at that.

**DO NOT FORGET: EDIT YOUR PAPER:**  Make sure to write in full sentences and double space the entire paper. Edit or proofread your paper and make sure there are no spelling errors, run-on and incomplete sentences**.** The paper should run at least ten pages, double spaced, including bibliography.