

Name: _____

Research Methods

Homework Assignment #1 - Literature Review – Part A

In most social research projects, one begins by conducting a *review of the literature* on their proposed topic. In other words, you begin by finding out what others have already learned about your topic. This involves reading what other researchers have written about it in previously published academic journal articles and books. In sociology, the majority of this material is in the form of journal articles.

1) The ASR Controversy, the History of Sociological Research and the Methodological Split
Begin by reading the article “Soul-Searching in Sociology: Is the Discipline in Crisis?” This article addresses a recent conflict in the American Sociological Association over the editorship of the top journal, the *American Sociological Review* (ASR). Then answer the following:

- The controversy over the ASR reflects a broader tension or friction within sociology over what issue? _____
- What are quantitative methods? _____
- What are qualitative methods? _____
- What methods were used by a majority of sociologists before World War II? _____
- What methodological approach became central after WWII? _____
- What is the strength of in-depth interviewing, a characteristic lacking in quantitative survey research? _____
- Studies using _____ methodology tend to be published in journal articles while studies using _____ methodology tend to be published in books. Why?

2) Finding Academic Journals in the Library

During the second week of class we will be having a research skills session in the library. This part will help prepare you for that session and for HW2. It will take only about 10-15 minutes.

- Go to the Crumb Library and find the **current and recent issues** of the *American Sociological Review* (HM1.A75). They are among the periodicals located against the wall in the reference area on the first floor (to the left of you while facing the reference desk). All periodicals are shelved by call number.
- Pick up an issue and flip through it – look at the table of contents and the title page of one article. Write a full citation of the article below following the examples provided. The number of authors determines the format of the author’s name(s). Pay close attention to all punctuation and formatting details and note that any lines *after* the first line get indented.

Name: _____

For more information about proper ASA format go to our Blackboard site and see “Writing in Sociology” under “External Links” or see:

<http://www.calstatela.edu/library/bi/rsalina/asa.styleguide.html>

Examples:

Klandermans, Bert. 1984. “Mobilization and Participation: Social-Psychological Expansions of Resource Mobilization Theory.” *American Sociological Review* 49:583-600.

Jenkins, J. Craig and Charles Perrow. 1977. “Insurgency of the Powerless: Farm Worker Movements (1946-1072).” *American Sociological Review* 42:249-268.

Snow, David A., E. Burke Rochford, Jr, Steven K. Worden, and Robert D. Benford. 1986. “Frame Alignment Processes, Micromobilization, and Movement Participation.” *American Sociological Review* 51:464-481.

Your article citation here:

- Crumb subscribes to dozens of sociological journals. They are mainly in the H section. Browse through the shelves and note the titles of various other journals. Note: they are mixed in among other types of periodicals – can you see the difference (and I don’t simply mean the color of the cover)? Note the titles of two other sociological journals below.

- Finally, head upstairs and find the bound volumes of past issues of the *American Sociological Review*. They will be under the same call number and mixed in with other types of materials on the shelves (books, videos, etc.). Pick out a volume and find an article in it. Write a full citation of the article below.
