

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) A Recent Example of Sociological Research on College Life

Begin by reading the journal article, “Race, Gender, and Research: Implications for Teaching from Depictions of Professors in Popular Film” (available on BB). Then answer the **following**:

- What is the subheading title of the section that would be best described as a review of the literature on the topic of the article? _____

- What type of study does this article report on - that is, what is the research methodology employed? _____

- What was the sample used for this research? _____

- What is one finding of this study? _____

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. If they are missing, they may be waiting to be re-shelved. Ask at the reference desk if you cannot locate any.

- 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. Titles of periodicals are italicized. Titles of articles are in quotation marks. All important words in article title are capitalized. See examples. →

- For journal articles with one author:
Klandermans, Bert. 1984. "Mobilization and Participation: Social-Psychological Expansions of Resource Mobilization Theory." *American Sociological Review* 49:583-600.
- For journal articles with two authors:
Jenkins, J. Craig and Charles Perrow. 1977. "Insurgency of the Powerless: Farm Worker Movements (1946-1972)." *American Sociological Review* 42:249-268.
- For journal articles with multiple authors:
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.

Note: Issue number and/or exact date are unnecessary if pages are numbered consecutively within a volume. Use the issue number or exact date for journals that do not number pages consecutively within a volume. For more information about proper ASA format go to our Blackboard site and see "Writing in Sociology" under "External Links."

Your article citation here:

- Crumb subscribes to several other sociological journals in print. 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. Find one journal that is scholarly and another periodical that appears to be more "popular." Look them over and complete the following:

	Scholarly Journal	Popular Periodical
Publication title		
Publisher (if you identify more than one put them both/all)		
One article title		

- In order to familiarize you with the full range of sociology journals in our library's collection and to locate past issues of *American Sociological Review* complete the following:
 - Go to the library webpage and choose "sociology" in the "start by subject" menu.
 - On that page, click on the "articles" tab and choose JSTOR.
 - In JSTOR choose "browse" and "by discipline" and "sociology."
 - Browse the titles there and then select *American Sociological Review*.
 - Choose an issue from a decade before 2000, find an article and write a full citation of the article below.
