

Research Methods
Homework Assignment Two
Literature Review - Part B

This is a continuation of HW1. Please refer back to that assignment before completing this part.

Part B: Finding Sociological Journal Articles in Electronic Databases – Do after class session in library.

- **Topic:** Think of a topic related to the college student experience. You should focus in a particular issue of interest to you. Some ideas include study habits, social life, student activism, financial issues, student retention, crime on campus, non-traditional/commuter or international student issues, etc. This is the topic you will use for some of the other homework assignments in this class including a survey you will conduct among other students.
- **Search:** Using the library web site do a search of the *Sociological Abstracts* database and find **five** social science journal articles about your topic that are no more than ten years old. Most of your articles should report on a *study* (this means that the authors collected new data or did an analysis of available data to answer a specific research question or test a hypothesis). Try not to include completely theoretical pieces or literature reviews (sometimes it's hard to tell).
- **Report:** Find **one** of the articles that reports on a study in full text. Print out a copy of the **first page** to hand in with your report (I do not want the whole article). Your report should be brief (no more than one page long) and include the two following components:
 - 1) Do web search on the journal title and go to the journal's web page and report the following about the journal:
 - a. Who is the publisher?
 - b. Does the publication process involve peer-review? (You can usually figure this out by looking at the instructions for submission and/or for authors/contributors).
 - c. How did you determine whether it was peer-reviewed journal?
 - 2) A summary of the article including the:
 - a. hypotheses or research questions
 - b. methodology
 - c. major findings and conclusions

Please organize your report using the outline numbering that corresponds to each item above. You may use direct quotes from the article for the items in part two. Be sure to properly cite them by putting them in quotation marks and providing the page number in parentheses following the quote.

- **Bibliography:** List the complete citations for all of the five articles you identified in the search step. Make sure your citations are **alphabetized** (but not numbered) and in proper ASA citation format. **Do not** cut and paste from the database. They are not in proper citation format. There is no need to include electronic citation info (i.e. "Retrieved on (date), web address, etc.).

For more information about proper ASA format go to our Blackboard site and see "Writing in Sociology" under "External Links" or see: <http://www.buffalostate.edu/library/docs/asa.pdf>

- Don't forget to attach a copy of the **first page** of the article to your report!