

Analysis Paper

Remember: Do Not Plagiarize—See syllabus (and instructor) for resources to avoid plagiarism

The purpose of this assignment is to allow you to apply the material we've read/discussed in the course to a topic of your choosing. In so doing, I want you to use course concepts to analyze a real-world example (see below for specific conceptual guidelines). In your essay, you should clearly discuss **at least 5** of the readings from class **plus at least two additional peer-reviewed resources from outside class**. You should confine your discussion to 7 typed pages (double-spaced, 12-point font, 1.25-inch margins).

When selecting your topic, be as specific as possible. A specific topic should allow you to elaborate on conceptual issues easier than a general topic. For example, it would be much easier to write a paper analyzing how Barack Obama's status as a man who embodies a marginalized masculinity informs people's negative response to him rather than the more generic topic of "masculinity and race in politics." Focusing on the Obama case would allow you to discuss the broader issues and themes while being able to find specific information (quotations, images, etc.) to better make your case.

Paper Structure & Requirements

1) Introduction (1 page)

Begin with an introduction of your topic and how it relates to broader conceptual issues. The introduction should include a clear, concise *thesis statement* that relates to your specific topic (thesis statement help is here: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/545/1/>). Your thesis statement should provide a sociologically-informed statement that explains how and/or why the topic you have chosen exists as it does in the world. For example, using the Obama topic introduced above, a viable thesis statement could read, "Much of the concern, anxiety, and hostility that has been expressed toward Barack Obama grows out of his status as an African-American man, a status that is marginalized vis-à-vis hegemonic masculinity, which is defined as White in the U.S. context." Conclude the introduction with a brief map of your essay.

2) Your sociologically-informed analysis (5 pages)

Discuss and analyze your topic in terms of the sociological concepts from class readings. In so doing, you should explain how a sociological understanding of masculinities helps us understand your topic. Specifically, address the following:

- How can we understand the topic you've chosen in terms of Schwalbe's notion of "manhood acts?"
- Connell's discussion of the social organization of masculinities and Messner's "terrain of the politics of masculinities." What aspects of Connell's model of the relations of masculinities are in evidence with the topic you've chosen? For example, is the topic you've chosen an example of the gendered division of labor, power, or perhaps the structure of cathexis (or some combination of these dimensions)? How is your topic related to Connell's (and Messner's) assertion that men, in the aggregate, enjoy privilege over women in the aggregate? Are there any costs of masculinity associated with the topic you've selected?
- How does an intersectional framework help illuminate the topic you've chosen? That is, how does including race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, nationality, ability (or any other relevant dimension of inequality) in your analysis help clarify the topic you've chosen?
- Which other articles we've read in class help illuminate something about the topic you've chosen? How so? How do the outside articles you've located help illuminate something about the topic?

Remember, a good sociological explanation is an explanation of *why* and/or *how* social practice is organized as it is in the world. When discussing the authors' ideas, be sure to cite appropriately (follow citation practices provided in the ASA Style guide, which is on D2L).

3) Conclusion (1 page)

Wrap up your paper by recapping the key conceptual arguments you make in the paper in terms of the topic you've chosen.

4) References

Put at end of paper—see the *ASA Style Guide* on D2L to provide more specific guidelines on how to properly cite within the text and create a bibliography. You must use at least 5 sources from our class readings plus at least 2 additional peer-reviewed sources you find on your own (7 sources total)