

Guide to Senior Project (SOC 461)

Professor Ryan Alaniz

Please turn all assignments in on polylearn.

Additionally, please name each document in the following ways:

last name first initial [name of assignment]

Alaniz R outline

Choosing a Topic (~Week 1-2 if not earlier)

Choosing a topic is often difficult. Here are some questions you should answer before choosing a topic:

1. Are you passionate about the topic? When I use passionate, I mean are you excited to get up early to learn about the issue you are studying? If not, you should find another research issue.

2. Will writing a paper about this topic move you forward in your career? You may be passionate about dark chocolate or surfing, but these probably are not going to provide you the foundation for obtaining a job in your field. Therefore, ensure that whatever knowledge you choose to investigate in this process will be desired by future employers.

Once you have found a topic, please find at least one more. Then write up both ideas in a short narrative, answering both questions. Each narrative should be one or two paragraphs and no longer than one full page each.

For more information, please check out the USC website below:

<http://libguides.usc.edu/content.php?pid=83009&sid=1756237>.

Research Proposal (~Week 3)

“The goal of a research proposal is to present and justify a research idea you have and to present the practical ways in which you think this research should be conducted...Research proposals contain extensive literature reviews and must provide persuasive evidence that there is a need for the research study being proposed. In addition to providing rationale for the proposed research, a proposal describes detailed methodology for conducting the research consistent with requirements of the professional or academic field and a statement on anticipated outcomes and/or benefits derived from the study” (USC 2012)

Once you have found a topic, please write turn the topic into a research proposal. For example, if you are interested in race and labor, a solid research proposal could begin with the following paragraphs:

Growing up in the agricultural fields of California, I have always wondered why so many people complained about the high unemployment rate and yet there were so many jobs available on the farm. Indeed, many farms and vineyards in SLO county continue to have a desperate need for laborers and yet there are more than 10,300 unemployed SLO residents¹. My research question asks, "Is there a relationship between race and farm labor?" More specifically, since nearly 8,000 of the unemployed residents are white, why do they not obtain a position on a farm?

In order to investigate this issue, I plan to read and then write a literature review about farm labor and race in California. I then plan to interview three unemployed workers, two white and one Latino, and ask them about their experience being unemployed. I conjecture that although there are many reasons why someone would not want to do farm labor, for whites, one reason is that farm labor is seen as minority work and therefore beneath them."

My timeline for accomplishing this research project is the following:

January -Description

February -Description

March -Description

April -Description

May -Description

June -Description

Completing this research has two positive benefits for my personal and professional life. On the one hand, this is an intellectual itch I have had for years and understanding why whites are not desirous of obtaining farm labor jobs provide fodder to combat racist stereotypes concerning Mexican laziness. On the other hand, I would like to work in labor rights in the future and investigating stereotypes among whites and Latinos concerning labor will give me a stronger foundation for knowledge as I prepare to enter the workplace. I believe that if I am able to speak intelligently about this issue, it will help me obtain the job that I am looking for. Finally, conducting a literature review and interviews will build my research skills, which will also benefit my career objectives.

Notice that the following are included:

1. A reason to study the particular topic
2. A research question
3. How I will collect data
4. A hypothesis
5. A timeline

Please look at the Purdue OWL website for information on doing a research paper.

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/8/>

Once you are ready to begin the proposal process, please read over the USC webpages for further details on HOW to write a proposal. My expectation is that it is about two pages in length.

<http://libguides.usc.edu/content.php?pid=83009&sid=2319840>

¹ State of California Employment Development Department. 2012. "Unemployment Rates."
(<http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov>) Retrieved on January 11th, 2012.

Annotated Bibliography (~Week 6)

Finding Sources

<http://libguides.calpoly.edu/sociology355>

Find ten sources on your topic. Do a brief (one paragraph, 200 words) annotation for each source.

Content Guidelines for Each Annotation

- 1) Major points/conclusions--What does the article tell us?
- 2) Source/method the author(s) used to get or analyze the information--Where/how did the author who wrote the article get the information?
(This is NOT the publication where you got the article, or the author's name. If no source is evident, then state that the source of the information was not given.)
- 3) Perspective or bias
--What is the underlying philosophy, ideological perspective, or bias of the information presented?
- 4) Significance
--Why do you think this source is important to your senior project?
--What, if any, information is lacking that would make the article or argument stronger?

Each annotation should be approximately 200 words. Include the total word length of the write-up in parenthesis at the end of each annotation. Use a variety of sources, including academic journals. You are more likely to find different perspectives. Please follow appropriate return practices so that publications do not get lost.

For more information, please see the Cal Poly library webpage on annotated bibliographies:

<http://lib.calpoly.edu/research/guides/bibliography.html#samples>

Example

Finney, John W., & Annette C. Hahn. 1996. The Effectiveness Of Inpatient And Outpatient Treatment For Alcohol Abuse: The Need To Focus On Mediators and Moderators of Setting Effects." *Addiction* 91(12): 1773-1796.

Previous reviews of studies have shown that inpatient programs have no benefit over outpatient programs for alcohol dependency. This article reviews 14 studies and finds that inpatient treatment was superior to outpatient treatment in five of them, outpatient treatment was superior to inpatient treatment in two of them, and there was no significant difference in the remaining seven. The authors focus on the "treatment setting effects" in these studies and suggest some rationales for inpatient and outpatient treatment selection. This article considers treatment-related factors, patient selection process, and methodological characteristics of the 14 studies to identify possible moderators of significant setting effects. Finally, the authors conclude that the setting of treatment for alcohol abuse is not as important as other treatment variables in relation to a patient's post-treatment success. I plan to use this article in my discussion of why individuals choose the treatment options that they do, and how we can better "match" individuals to treatment programs for alcohol abuse. (168 words)

Examples for Bibliographic Reference Format

The form used for bibliographic references should follow the following examples. See the Cal Poly library website on references:

<http://lib.calpoly.edu/research/citations/styles.html>

I personally prefer the American Sociological Association (ASA) format but all are acceptable.

http://www.asanet.org/students/resources_majors.cfm

You can also read through the USC website for further details on citations:

<http://libguides.usc.edu/content.php?pid=83009&sid=615874>

1. Book

Author1 (last name inverted), **Author2** (including full surname, last name is not inverted), and **Author3**. **Year of publication**. *Name of Publication (italicized)*. **Location of publisher, state, or province postal code (or name of country if a foreign publisher): Publisher's Name.**

Bursik, Robert J., Jr. and Harold G. Grasmick. 1993. *Neighborhoods and Crime: The Dimensions of Effective Community Control*. New York: Lexington Books.

2. Publication by an agency or institution

The United States Bureau of the Census. 1903. *Census of the United States, Twelfth, 1900*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

3. Internet source

Articles and books obtained from the Internet follow the same pattern as those cited above, with the exception that page numbers are omitted and the URL and date of access are included. If the URL is very long, please shorten it to a place it makes sense. Finally, do not cite library search engines (such as sociological abstracts).

Schafer, Daniel W. and Fred L. Ramsey. 2003. "Teaching the Craft of Data Analysis." *Journal of Statistics Education* 11(1). Retrieved December 12, 2006 (<http://www.amstat.org/publications/jse/v11n1/schafer.html>).

4. Article in an academic journal

Author1 (Last name inverted), **Author2** (including full surname, last name is not inverted), and **Author3**. **Year of Publication**. "Title of Article." *Name of Publication* **Volume Number (Issue Number): page numbers of article.**

Aseltine, Robert H., Jr. and Ronald C. Kessler. 1993. "Marital Disruption and Depression in a Community Sample." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 34(3):237-51.

5. Websites

A general rule may be applied to citing of websites: If the website contains data or evidence essential to a point being addressed in the manuscript, it should be formally cited with the URL and date of access.

In the text of the paper cite as: (ASA 2006)

In the reference list:

American Sociological Association 2006. "Status Committees." Washington, DC: American Sociological Association. Retrieved December 12, 2006 (<http://www.asanet.org/cs/root/leftnav/committees/committees>).

6. DO NOT CITE WIKIPEDIA!

Example of In-Text Citations and References

Post-Mitch Honduran State Fragility

Although Honduras is not always indexed as a fragile state, there is considerable evidence the government did not have the capacity to provide the basic functions needed after Hurricane Mitch. Two years before the hurricane, social scientists warned of the nation's vulnerability as it did not have the national apparatuses or the capacity to deal with disaster. Leon and Lavell (1996) publishing from Central America explained, "In Honduras and Costa Rica, community work for disaster evacuations are not usually planned, but rather are spontaneous responses and support at the time of emergency" (Leon and Lavell 1996: 61, translated by author). Indeed, even before Hurricane Mitch had finished roaring through the country, the government was already in disarray and even basic services could not be provided. Jackson (2005: Ch. 10) points out in the initial days following Mitch it was the World Bank, the International Development Bank, and USAID who took control of the logistical issues and decided how to organize the relief effort. In fact when asked about the Honduran emergency commission (COPECO), international financial institutions staff commented the agency "was unprepared and had no funds. It was unable to perform at all" for emergency response and relief, let alone recovery (Jackson 2005: 262, see also Jeffrey 1999). Due in part to the weakness of the Honduran state to deal with the disaster and the amount of human and material capital obtained by the NGOs, the Honduran congress had little choice but to follow the programs and actions decided upon by foreign development actors (Jackson 2005). The fragile (and minimal) social contract between government and citizenry was broken creating a space to be filled by non-governmental organizations.

References (United Nations University Format)

Jackson, J.T. (2005): *The Globalizers: Development Workers in Action*. The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore.

Jeffrey, P. (1999): Rhetoric and reconstruction in post-Mitch Honduras. In: *NACLA Report on the Americas*. vol. 33, no. 2, pp. 28-37.

Leon, P. and Lavell, A. (1996): Comunidades urbanas en Centro America: vulnerabilidad a desastres. In: *Desastres y Sociedad* vol. 7, no. 4, pp. 57-78.

This paragraph was excerpted from:

Alaniz, R. (2012): Unsupervised Recovery: Post-Disaster NGO Recovery and Adaptation Strategies in Honduras. In: *SOURCE*. No.16, pp. 110-124. [Link](#)

Outline (~Week 8)

The outline of your research paper should provide a framework or skeleton from which you build your paper. You should use headings and subheadings to define the important points you are planning to include in the paper. It is not uncommon to have an outline for every paragraph. The outline should also provide a topic sentence for each paragraph or section to give the reader a sense of the direction in which the paper is heading.

Please see the Purdue website for more information about outlining your paper.

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/544/01/>

Introduction (~Week 10)

“The introduction serves the purpose of leading the reader from a general subject area to a particular field of research. It establishes the context of the research being conducted by summarizing current understanding and background information about the topic, stating the purpose of the work in the form of the hypothesis, question, or research problem, briefly explaining your rationale, methodological approach, highlighting the potential outcomes your study can reveal, and describing the remaining structure of the paper” (USC 2012).

<http://libguides.usc.edu/content.php?pid=83009&sid=618406>

Writing (Always)

Before you submit anything, please check for these common writing errors.

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/1/2/>

Guide to Senior Project II (SOC 462)

Professor Ryan Alaniz

Rough Draft and Bibliography (~Week 7)

The rough draft, in my opinion, is mistitled. The rough draft should be the absolute best you can do before I constructively critique it. You should have proofread the paper at least twice and hopefully had a friend proofread it a third time. Your bibliography should also only have the sources that you cited and follow one format consistently. By this point in your education, I am not going to babysit your writing or bibliography. If the rough draft is full of mistakes, I am not going to finish reading it but rather send you to the writing center for further assistance.

USC on proofreading

<http://libguides.usc.edu/content.php?pid=83009&sid=1037992>

Purdue on common writing errors

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/1/2/>

Final Draft (~Week 9)

The final copy must follow the standards on the “Guidelines for Senior Projects 461 and 462”

Before turning in your final draft you must proofread your work. In fact, it would be worthwhile to have someone else also proofread your paper. Remember, this is your crowning achievement after four (or more) years at Cal Poly. It should make us all proud.