Sociological Methods and Service Learning

Essential Questions
-How can using qualitative and quantitative data help answer sociological questions?
-How can we use sociology to address societal issues?

Over the past week, we have looked at the variety of ways that sociologists analyze the society around them. We have also analyzed the benefits and drawbacks of both qualitative and quantitative research. Now, you will put this knowledge into action! In this activity, you will identify a social issue that you find important. Then, you will conduct both qualitative and quantitative research to learn as much as you can about how this issue affects people in our school and around the United States. Finally, you will begin to develop a research tool that you will use as part of your final exam. Ultimately, you will use this information to find out how we can help address the issue that you have chosen.

Part I: Identifying Social Issues

1. What are some problems that you are facing in your life?

2. What are some problems that other people you know are facing in their lives?

3. What larger social issues do these problems connect to? Explain.

4. Go to https://tinyurl.com/SocIssuesTopics. Look through the list of topics, choose one, or use them to inspire your own topic. Then, write your topic in the space below.

   Research Topic: ___________________________________________________________

5. Apply the SOCIOLOGICAL IMAGINATION. How would a person’s biography and history affect why and how they might be facing this issue?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>History</th>
<th>Biography</th>
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6. Which of the three SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES would best suit your study of this issue? Explain.

7. Now, write as many SOCIOLOGICAL questions as you can about this issue. I WONDER

8. Choose one of the questions above and circle it. This will be your research question moving forward in this project. Once you have chosen your question, check in with Mr. Plaza.

Mr. Plaza signature: ________________________________

**Part II: Identifying Symptoms Root Causes**

1. Complete the root causes tree. Be sure to include symptoms and causes of your issue.

2. Choose TWO symptoms of your issue. How does our society address those symptoms? If it does not, how can our society address those root causes?

3. Choose TWO root causes of your issue. How does our society address those root causes? If it does not, how can our society address those root causes?

Mr. Plaza signature: ________________________________
**Part III: Qualitative and Quantitative Research**

Go back to [https://tinyurl.com/SocIssuesTopics](https://tinyurl.com/SocIssuesTopics). Using the websites provided for your issue, as well as other online resources, find as much qualitative and quantitative data that you can about your issue. For each piece of information you find, please CITE your sources.

Your information should answer these three questions:
1. What is the issue?
2. Why is this an issue?
3. How does this issue affect people in the specific area?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Qualitative Data</th>
<th>Quantitative Data</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lake County</td>
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Mr. Plaza signature: _________________________________
Part IV: What Can We Do?

1. Identify a LOCAL (within Lake County) organization that we can work with this semester to help address this issue.

   Name of Organization: 

   Contact Information
   
   a. Phone:
   
   b. E-Mail:
   
   c. Address:

   What specifically does this organization do to address the issue?

2. Contact the organization. What can our classes do to help this organization? Log the date, time, and person you spoke to or were in contact with.

Part V: How aware are GCHS students of the issue? How does it affect GCHS students?

You and your group members will create a qualitative and quantitative research tool to collect data to answer the questions listed in the heading of this section. You will have class time to collect data later this week.

Qualitative-Each group member must interview **at least 5** students

   *You must include date, time, and description (age, year in school, race, gender) for each person you interview. DO NOT USE REAL NAMES!*

Quantitative-Each group member must collect **at least 50** responses

   *Data can be collected in person or online. DO NOT USE SCHOOL E-MAIL LISTS!*

**IMPORTANT:** Before conducting your research, you must check in your questions and research tools with Mr. Plaza. You will turn in your research when it is complete.

Mr. Plaza signature: __________________________
Part VI: Write Up

Write a multi-paragraph argument to convince the class that we should focus on your issue as our class project this year. Include your qualitative and quantitative data from Parts III and IV to support your position.

Timeline

Monday, 9/9: ASA Code of Ethics, Intro Project, Finish Part I for homework
Tuesday, 9/10: PART I DUE, Root Causes Tree
Wednesday, 9/11: ROOT CAUSES TREE DUE, Begin Part III and IV Research
Thursday, 9/12: Finish Part III and IV Research
Friday, 9/13: Part III and IV Research DUE, Design Qualitative and Quantitative Research tools

Monday, 9/16: Design and check research tools
Tuesday, 9/17: Conduct Research
Wednesday, 9/18: Conduct Research
Thursday, 9/19: Research Analysis
Friday, 9/20: Write Up-due Monday