

Sociology and You

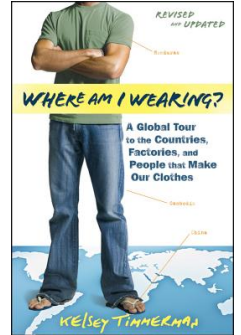
Critical Book Review

Term 1 Project

As the course moves quickly from topic to topic, some of the subjects students find interesting may not be thoroughly investigated. Over the course of the term, students will have the opportunity to explore a topic of interest to further engage their sociological imagination. The first term "free friday" project will consist of all students reading an approved work and presenting a scholarly book review to the class. Many of these approved works will be provided by the instructor or the CHS library.

Project Grading (Learning Standards: I1, I2, I3, I4)

- **1/3 and 2/3 Summary Papers**
 - 1 typed page (doubled-spaced)
 - MLA Heading and Citation at the top of your page
 - Additional sources of information must be footnoted and properly cited
 - Minimum two paragraphs
 - Summary of argument, research methods, etc. for thus far in the work
 - Be sure to include the page number you are on in your book!
 - Reflection on the work
 - Positives/negatives of the work
 - Questions/Confusions with the book
 - Connection(s) to Sociology
- **Written Book Review**
 - MLA Heading and Citation at the top of your page
 - Additional sources of information must be footnoted and properly cited
 - A least four paragraphs in length
 - Introduction/body/conclusion
 - Students should use proper punctuation, grammar, and citations
- **Class Presentation**
 - At least 7 minutes in length
 - Students present in a clear and engaging manner
 - Student uses technology (Google Slides, Power point, etc.) to enhance their presentation



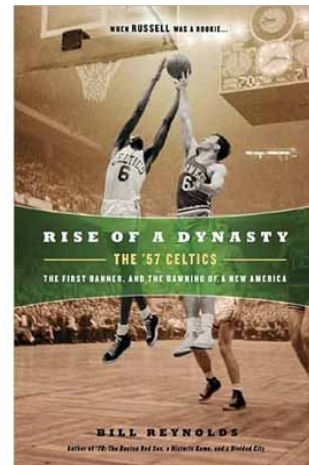
Formatting for Written Assignments (Paper Presentation)

- MLA (Modern Language Association)
- MLA Heading on all papers!
- 11 point
- Arial Font
- Footnotes (if needed)
- Doubled-spaced

Online Submission

- TBD

Book Review Guide



During the first term, students will be using the class period to engage in the critical book review project. **Your book review must be a critical analysis of the work, not simply a summary of its contents.** After reading the book carefully and thoroughly, use the questions below to guide your critical review. Reviewers do not need to address each of the areas, but use them to help write and present a strong book review.

Summary of Author's Interpretation & Research (Be as neutral as possible)

- How does the author see his/her task? How does the author define the parameters and objectives of the work?
- What is the author's thesis and overall argument? (Very Important!)
- How is the material organized?
- What resources does the author use to prove his/her thesis?

Student's Critical Analysis of the Work (Do not be Neutral, Take a Stand!)

- How well does the author carry out his/her task/objective?
- How well does the author defend his/her thesis? Do you agree with the argument why/why not?
- If you disagree with the approach or parameters, offer your alternative.
- Is it organized effectively?
- Are all appropriate topics and sources included in the book?

Background of the Author

- Where was the author educated? What degrees he or she holds?
- Has the author taught anywhere? What does the author currently do?
- What other works has she/he published?
- What is the author's standing in the field (expert whose is well regarded, young scholar with his/her first major work)?
- Does their background influence the author's analysis and argument (Here you do not have to be neutral)

Scholarly Communities' Reaction

- What is the scholarly community's reaction to the work? It can be general assessment or specific criticism.

Project Timeline

Week 1 (9/13) - Project introduction, book selection, begin reading work

Week 2 (9/20) - Read book and complete 1/3 Summary Paper

Week 3 (9/27) - 1/3 Summary Paper due!

Week 4 (10/4) - Read book and complete 2/3 Summary Paper

Week 5 (10/11) - 2/3 Summary Paper due!

Week 6 (10/18) - Finish book and begin final written book review

Week 7 (10/23) - Finish Book Review and work on presentation Slides

Week 8 (11/1) - Finalize written Book Review, complete presentation Slides, and practice presentation

Week 9 (11/6 & 11/7) - Project Presentations

