

How to Write for this Class

The good news about writing in this class is that I'm not an English teacher. I don't expect perfection in your work.

What writing qualities are we developing in this class?

I am looking for three qualities in your course assignments:

- **Definition:** The ability to explain sociological ideas, words, or concepts. Most of the time, **these definitions will come directly from your textbook.**
- **Application:** The ability to apply these concepts to understand, explain or address a social change.
- **Readability:** The ability to communicate so that I can understand your ideas. While I will sometimes suggest corrections in grammar and punctuation, I am looking for clarity in your ideas. For this component, I am looking for the correct citation of your sources. We always build on the work of others. We also, therefore, always talk about the work that we used. We call this citing or creating a citation.

Example Citations

When we cite our sources, we may do an in-line citation, particularly if we directly quote a source. In addition, all of our sources are referenced at the end of our work. Here are some examples:

The Course Textbook

In Line:

(Esbensen et al. 2023:10) if your version has page numbers, or (Esbensen et al. 2023: 3.2.1) if your version only has section headings.

Bibliography:

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Esbensen, Heidi, Jane Forbes, Erika Giesen and Dana Petermann. 2023. *Sociology of Gender*. Chemeketa Press.

Website

In Line

(Beitsch 2018:n.p.)

Bibliography

Beitsch, Rebecca. 2018. “#MeToo Has Changed Our Culture. Now It’s Changing Our Laws.” PewResearch. July 31, 2018.

<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2018/07/31/metoo-has-changed-our-culture-now-its-changing-our-laws>

Academic Article

In Line

(Alvarez 2001:6)

Bibliography

Alvarez, Rodolfo. 2001. “The Social Problem as an Enterprise: Values as a Defining Factor.” *Social Problems* 48 (1): 3–10. <https://doi.org/10.1525/sp.2001.48.1.3>

If you need more examples:

ASA style is based on the more common Chicago Style (author/date). For specific and clear examples of ASA style for In-Text and Reference Lists use these sources:

- [ASA In-Text examples from Purdue Online Writing Lab](#)
- [ASA Reference List from Purdue Online Writing Lab](#)

If you can't find the style for your source there, these sources have even more examples:

- Help with Chicago in-text citations and references: [Chicago Style Guide](#)
- [Quick Tips for Writing in American Sociological Association \(ASA\) Style](#)

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If you want to generate your citations, rather than typing them yourself, this automated citation generator is good, although you have to watch ads.

- [Citation Machine](#)