

# Discussion 8: Social Change Perspectives and Religion

In the lesson page for Module 8, you were asked to consider which of the 5 perspectives introduced in the Foundational Perspectives on Religion section of Chapter 9 stood out to you:

1. Religion as Symbolic Interaction
2. Stability, Solidarity, and Integration
3. Opposing Ideas on Conflict

For your first post, complete the following.

## Step One:

1. **Briefly introduce** the perspective that most stands out to you (as described in the lesson page).
  - a. Summarize the perspective in your own words.
  - b. Explain: Why or how does that perspective help you understand religion's role in society and social change?
2. Choose a religious ritual from any religion or belief. **Discuss the purpose and/or meaning** of that ritual **through the lens of the perspective you introduced in prompt 1.**
3. Then, **explore** the Pew Research Center's Religious Landscape Study.
  - a. The [first report](#) focuses on the changing religious composition of the U.S. and the demographic characteristics of U.S. religious groups.
  - b. The [second report](#) looks at religious beliefs and practices as well as social and political views for the U.S. adult population overall and for specific religious traditions.

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- c. [This video](#) may be helpful; it outlines how to navigate the interactive report.
4. As you explore the Pew Study, consider the notes you provided regarding the purpose and/or meaning of the specific religion you chose. Then, explain: **What does the Pew data make you curious about?**
  - a. For example, you might be curious about the percentage of each state's population that is affiliated with the religion you chose. Or, you might be curious about the social and political issues that are associated with the religion you chose to write about.
5. Finally, **present three questions** that you think would be valuable to add to the Pew Study, to better understand the role of the religion you chose to write about.

### Step Two:

For your second and third posts, review your classmates' notes, then add at least one additional question that you think could add to better understand the role of the religion they chose to write about.

### For full credit:

- Be sure to post on two different days
- Your first posts should be 200 words or more. Your second and third should be 150 words or more each.
- Use full sentences and correct grammar and punctuation
- Respond to the full set of discussion instructions
- Follow the guidelines noted in the Syllabus on Discussions