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Reflection

This project has affected the way that I approach doing social research. By collaborating with other students to create a more comprehensive study, I have realized the importance of doing research with others and how powerful it can be. While I may be focused on one topic, other students may be curious about others. By working together, we can gather much more information through one survey or study rather than a few. When selecting sources, I tried to pick recent and relevant topics to my research question. I focused on higher academics but did examine children's education before deciding to omit those sources for irrelevance. While most of my sources were modern and in the last five years, I did include a few sources that were older and relevant. My final sources differed slightly from my original annotated bibliography.

The biggest struggle that I had with collecting research for this project was defining the factors that contributed to student satisfaction rates. Many students are more academically focused and may be unsatisfied due to the changes in the format of schooling. Ultimately I made the decision to focus on how the lack of in-person social events affected student satisfaction rates. I chose to do so because student life is one of the biggest things potential students look at when choosing a university. Many of my sources focused on the impact of campus life and social or service organizations on student success.

Admittedly, doing research like this is still very intimidating to me. I do think that my confidence has improved over the course of the semester. Conducting this research as a class made it less intimidating. I was able to talk with other students to see how they were approaching their research questions and exchange advice. This topic was important and relevant to me so that made this research much more interesting and appealing.

My ability to "think like a researcher," has improved since beginning this class. I have always been interested in the product of research, but haven't often thought about the process of conducting research. It has caused me to look at multiple factors and indicators before assuming the answer to a sociological question. This class has prepared me for conducting research in the future and I have come to understand that the process gets easier the more research I do.