CSF Abstract & Statement of Sociological Relevance Resource

Purpose of an Abstract:

The abstract gives the reader an overview of the main points and results, not just a list. It summarizes the substance of the submission and should be written to present a complete and convincing example of why they should continue reading. Your abstract should be a single paragraph, between 150 and 250 words.

General Guidelines

A well-written abstract should:

- Be self-contained — it should not make references to material in the text or include citations
- Be concise by making concrete, practical conclusions
- Have the target audience in mind
- Note why the work was done — the fundamental problem or research question, the specific purpose or objective, and the significance of the work
- Explain how the work was done — the test methods or means of investigation
- Share specifics on what was found — the results, conclusions, and recommendations
- Provide meaningful insights, but don't lose the message in a sea of words
- Be accessible and relevant

Format:

Aim for one sentence for each of the following information:

- Purpose (Why the topic is essential today)
- Argument (topic)
- Theory/Literature (Framework for understanding the topic or main sections of Lit Review)
- Methods
- Results
- Conclusion (Final assessment of the overall evidence and recommendations)

Examples from CSF Volume 6:

"ABSTRACT

This analysis provides a nuanced understanding of how the calendar serves not only as a temporal reference but also as a tool that structures and influences societal and sociological dynamics. Beginning with the Roman Catholic Church's role, I explore the integration and profound early influence of religion into the temporal structure, elucidating how its conceptualization has shaped societal norms and influenced some of humanity's more important decision-making processes today. The interplay between religious traditions and temporal organization highlights the calendar's dual function as a practical timekeeping tool and a cultural artifact. *The Four Tetrads* by Marshall McLuhan integrally offers a lens to analyze how changes in media and communication have influenced our perception and utilization of time as well as the effects of the calendar on contemporary societal issues. I then explore the interconnectedness of media evolution and the transformation of the calendar, emphasizing their reciprocal relationship in shaping societal values and priorities. Examining how the calendar dictates the rhythm of our lives, the theme investigates its role in determining the timing of critical events and decision-making processes. To offer a holistic perspective, I also trace the chronological changes in the calendar over the course of time, addressing key historical junctures that contributed to its evolution. From the Julian calendars to the Gregorian calendar's introduction, the narrative encompasses the various adaptations and reforms that have shaped the calendar into its present form."

"ABSTRACT

Modern society projects a belief that humanity is in a post-racial age. However, many events of the 21st century across the world, such as Black Lives Matter and the genocide in Gaza, contradict this. What causes such a disjunction between the supposed post-racial belief, compared to the reality shown through the lived experience of continued domination? We posit this stems from issues of empires engineering control strategies and tactics since the emergence of modern civilization. The societal construction of stratification between oppressor and oppressed persists by perpetuating worldwide systemic subjugation via power-based hierarchies. Our macro theoretical framework seeks to explain that the process through which the system of racial inequality became globalized is still fueled by the evolution of formal empire into a more informal, and therefore less perceptible, version of dominance. Ideology based on a 'rule of colonial difference' has created an insistent racial hierarchy stemming from modes of oppression through stratification by categories, with other pivotal variations of hierarchies around the globe continuing through the ages in various forms of class-type systems. The current actions of informal empire to maintain a 'global apartheid' has been deeply successful under tactics of 'liberal white supremacy,' 'racial liberalism' and psychological warfare. This framework focuses on the U.S. as an imperial force through its legacy as a settler-colonial state and hegemonic world power."

"ABSTRACT

This study is designed to pinpoint the hardships Black students endure and why these students are treated differently. Some of the barriers related to college access and college environmental settings (which I label 'internal issues') that have affected Black college students include the cost of higher education, which that can lead to them dropping out due to being unable to afford their education, a lack of spaces of belonging, and difficulty finding helpful mentors for guidance. These internal issues are compounded by challenges Black students often face outside college contexts (labeled 'external issues'), including raising dependents, a lack of community or family resources, and experiences of racism. Taken together, internal and external issues interact to impact Black college students' experiences and outcomes in post-secondary education."

"ABSTRACT

This is an exploration into being the first and only Cal State LA sociology student intern at TreePeople, a seasoned non-profit environmental justice organization. TreePeople's Policy and Research department teams host multi-component environmental initiatives which use participatory community engagement and outreach to dynamically record new urban climate change research and maximize resilience outcomes in underserved neighborhoods. Los Angeles is one of the most historically notorious urban landscapes for resource and land discrimination, racial and class segregationist policies, and extractive/polluting enterprises. My internship sought to bridge the gap between researchers and community members while encouraging a new approach to climate studies that brings all stakeholders into conversation equally. My team and I are employing micro to macro motivations, technological details, and sociological theoretical frameworks during the pre-outreach and beginning sampling stages of our initiative launch. LA provides a potent location for implementing more sociologically rooted environmental research, especially in the face of imminent climate crises that disproportionally affect marginalized communities. LA's Urban Soil Future combines quantitative measurements of soil health and biodiversity in LA and documented qualitative feedback and collaborative ideation about nature-based solutions, giving community voices an empirical and social platform. It is my fervent wish that organizations like TreePeople become progressively interested in compassionately and respectively widening the breadth of stakeholder collaboration and collectivism in all their current and future scientific research. I believe there is no better arena than climate justice to foster in a plurality in connection and wisdom, because we all share the threat of an inhospitable future, if we cannot work together."

Purpose of a Statement of Sociological Relevance:

A Statement of Sociological Relevance serves several vital purposes, especially within academic research or proposals that provide a framework for defining the submission's objectives and questions. It is beneficial for submissions written in non-SOC listed classes or contextualizing Creative Works such as poems and opinion pieces (op-eds). Overall, a Statement of Sociological Relevance ensures that the submission is grounded in real-world concerns and contributes meaningfully to sociology and beyond.

General Guidelines

Statements of Sociological Relevance should:
- Justify the Submission Focus — It explains why the topic is important from a sociological perspective. This involves detailing how the research contributes to understanding social phenomena, patterns, or issues.
- Highlight Societal Impact — It articulates the potential impact of the submission on society. This might include how the work could influence social policies, contribute to solving societal problems, or enhance our understanding of social dynamics.
- Connect to Broader Sociological Theory — It situates the submission within the broader context of sociological theories and concepts. This helps demonstrate how the study extends or challenges existing knowledge in the field.
- Engage Peers — It helps communicate the submission's significance to academic peers and the public. Outlining the relevance makes a case for why the submission deserves attention and resources.

SEE NEXT PAGES FOR EXAMPLES

Examples from CSF Volume 6:

"EXPLANATION OF SOCIOLOGICAL RELEVANCE

  The video poem I created for my CLS 1600-03 class is a poignant exploration of the immigrant experience through a sociological lens. By crafting the narrative in Spanish, I constructed a direct dialogue with my immigrant father, delving into the intricacies of his journey and the motivations behind leaving his life in Mexico. Through this intimate portrayal, the poem sheds light on the reality and complexities of the American dream from the perspective of immigrants, illustrating the challenges and sacrifices inherent in pursuing a better life.

  Moreover, the poem offers insights into the Latinx view of hustle culture, depicting the determination and resilience required to navigate unfamiliar territories and societal expectations. It captures the essence of the coming-of-age story of my father and I, who gain a deeper understanding of our familial roots and the intergenerational struggles embedded within our upbringing.

  As a first-generation college student, exploring my father's journey resonates with a broader sociological context, reflecting the experiences of many who grapple with the legacies of hardship and resilience passed down through generations. This narrative serves as a testament to the strength of immigrant communities and the complexities of familial relationships shaped by adversity and the pursuit of the American dream."

"EXPLANATION OF SOCIOLOGICAL RELEVANCE

  A collection of five poetry pieces all featuring the social theory of interactionism through the ever-increasing hyperreality of digital technology influencing humanity; social identity is a main theme throughout all.

Streaming does not directly reference any technological devices, using analogous wording describing a stream of water; this illustrates how natural it has become to use modern tech as part of daily norms.

Can't Connect Right Now wrestles with "the looking glass self" being influenced by external perceptions.

No Data Connection explores "the I" & "the Me" of interactions with technological devices, playing with analogies of various features used both in and out of tech, such as how fingers are also known as digits.

The Vast Nothingness of Space follows a journey of cutting off humanity – both personally and socially – in an act of distancing the self from all else to avoid role strain and role conflict through the technological advancement of space exploration as a metaphor.

I Am Human essentially brings all the previous components together by focusing on the natural state of being human, putting a spin on roboticization of the modern world. The visual formatting of the piece is meant to resemble a spine."

Example from CSF Volume 5:

"EXPLANATION OF SOCIOLOGICAL RELEVANCE

I have been writing poetry and prose for over 20 years. Growing up, I was always on the outside looking in - having been homeschooled through all of grade school - which I have discovered works very well for the sociological imagination. As I came into adulthood and started branching out in the world, my writing reflected those changes and growth through more serious themes full of questioning. Now that I have been studying sociology for several years, I see so many sociological observations and imagination interwoven throughout my pieces. These selected pieces span the last decade.

Cost of Living explores working a minimum wage job under the burden of capitalism, while experiencing alienation from oneself due to division of labor.

The Masquerade of the Perfection Parade woke me up from a dead sleep, begging to be written. This piece investigates why humans conform to the same societal norms when they obscure individual authenticity. *Masquerade* further investigates imposter syndrome, fear of being found out to not measure up through never ending performance, while people are often hiding behind masks to fit cultural expectations.

Pretty|Ugly (The Beast of Beauty) covers a cross section of cultural norms and capitalistic messaging. Marketing and social media present idealized images of the perfect, happy life to sell more products while typically leaving the buyer feeling empty and wanting more.

School of Love studies romantic interpersonal relationships within the framing of school subjects or academic fields as an attempt at a whimsical yet poignant look at how im/maturity and societal expectations impact intimate relationships.

The Great Deception and *Invested* were both written in 2020, the former around the beginning of the COVID-19 lockdown and the latter at the end of that tumultuous year. *Invested* was inspired by the thought "What if I was investing in MYSELF?"; another exploration of alienation and trying to reconnect with one's own authenticity. *Deception* exposes a capitalistic mentality that over-values money instead of camaraderie."