

## **Application Paper Prompts and Ideas**

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### **Class and the Working Poor**

Play the following game and address the life chances of a person in the working poor. What sort of constraints act upon their lives? To what extent can a person in the working poor express agency? How can we relate this game to MacLeod, Bourdieu, and/or Heather Beth Johnson?

<http://playspent.org>

### **Conflict and Functional Perspectives**

Read the article and watch the video that discuss the recent controversy over college athletes and the NCAA. For this paper, you need to use Chapters 1 & 3 from the Eitzen textbook to analyze the potential unionization of college athletes. What is the 'sociological imagination' and how can we use it to make sense of this controversy? What is 'functionalism' and how can we interpret Northwestern's and the NCAA's positions using the functionalist model? What is 'conflict theory' and how can we interpret the players' petition to unionize using the conflict model? How can we synthesize the functionalist and conflict perspectives to have a more dialectical understanding of this controversy?

<http://www.cnn.com/2014/03/26/us/northwestern-football-union/>

<http://thedailyshow.cc.com/videos/bwjj0i/sports-disparity>

### **Social Control**

Watch the following video then write a 4-5 page analytical reflection paper. Your paper should draw extensively on the Eitzen et al chapter on social control. You must also relate these concepts to another reading in class and explain the connection.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AWaPp-8k2p0>

### **Deviance**

Watch the documentary *Inside Job*, available on Netflix and via the library, then write a 4-5 page analytical reflection paper. Your paper should thoroughly explain the film through the language of deviance, featured in Eitzen et al chapter 7. Your paper must also connect Wall Street behavior to the chapter on culture as well as explain why Wall Street executives have not been prosecuted.

<http://roger.ucsd.edu/search~S9?Xinside+job&searchscope=9&SORT=D/Xinside+job&searchscope=9&SORT=D&SUBKEY=inside+job/1%2C83%2C83%2CE/frameset&FF=Xinside+job&searchscope=9&SORT=D&1%2C1%2C>

### **Culture and Socialization**

Read the following articles and explain the basis for IKEA's business practices. You should draw heavily on Eitzen et al chapter 4. You must also relate this topic back to how we learn culturally appropriate behavior by discussing socialization and internalization.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2186823/IKEAs-customers-China-make-home.html>

<http://thesocietypages.org/socimages/2014/01/27/whats-ikea-for-cultural-differences-in-appropriate-behavior/>

### **Structural Sources of Social Change**

Watch the following New York Times video on robotics in work. Utilizing the chapters on the Economy and Structural Sources of social change, discuss the role of technology in the changing structure of the economy. Are the commentators in the video using the conflict or order

perspective to make sense of the role of robotics in work? What do you think about this? Do you think that manufacturing is the only segment of the economy that will be affected by robotics and automation, or will service industries be affected as well?

VIDEO: <http://www.nytimes.com/video/business/10000001728117/the-robot-factory-future.html?ref=business>

### **Power and Politics**

Compare and contrast the themes that you saw in the *Park Avenue* film (watched in lecture) to the film *The One Percent* (available on YouTube, link below). Choose 2 or 3 of these themes and analyze them using chapters from your textbook.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmlX3fLQrEc>

### **Globalization**

Watch the following New York Times video on 'the iPhone economy' and read its description by the Sociological Cinema (both links are below). Discuss the link between globalization and domestic jobs. Evaluate the role of globalization on the changing structure of work in the US (drawing upon the economy and structural sources of social change chapters in your textbook). Analyze the link between globalization and domestic work from the order and conflict perspectives.

VIDEO: [http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2012/01/20/business/the-iphone-economy.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2012/01/20/business/the-iphone-economy.html?_r=0)

DESCRIPTION: <http://www.thesociologicalcinema.com/1/category/globalization/2.html>

### **Resistance/Human Agency**

Watch the documentary "This is What Democracy Looks Like" on YouTube (link below). How is the 'battle of Seattle' an example of human agency? Pinpoint some specific strategies of protestors that demonstrate their agency. How effective do you think the 'battle' was? Use the film to contrast human agency against the concentration of power.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yBUZH2vCD\\_k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yBUZH2vCD_k)

### **Gender and the Family**

Read the following three articles that discuss women's "second shift" and the unequal distribution of household labor. Define the "second shift" and identify at least three social forces that make the second shift a reality for women. What could be done to help eliminate, or at least alleviate, the second shift?

<http://www.sociologyinfocus.com/2014/06/15/who-does-the-work-of-parenting/>

<http://thechart.blogs.cnn.com/2012/06/14/battle-over-housework-breeds-stress/>

<http://thesocietypages.org/socimages/2012/11/26/5-hour-energy-acknowledges-the-second-shift/>