

# What I will be looking for in your projects

In essence, I will be grading on 25 criterion with a maximum of two points per criterion. The criterion are based on the steps that I handed out on the first day of class.

- Did not cover the step = 0 pts
- Did not know the step = 0 pts
- Covered the step minimally = .5 pts
- Covered the step adequately = 1 – 1.5 pts
- Covered the step exceptionally = 2 pts

# What I will be looking for in your projects

The following pages offer examples of exactly what I will be judging with regard to your project. I used a Power Point presentation as an example, but as you know I do not require Power Point. However, any project presentation should have the following elements.

## Example 1

# Gangs: Functionalist Perspective

- Functionalists would disapprove of gangs because gangs make society unstable.



# Evaluation of Example 1

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I cannot give credit to this student for this step. Despite the fact that they demonstrated that Functionalism has something to do with social stability, they completely misapplied that knowledge. Remember, it is not the role of the sociologist to approve or disapprove of social phenomenon. The sociologist merely studies the phenomenon. I've covered this extensively in class, so this is a mistake I should not see.

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## Example 2

# Gangs: Functionalist Perspective

- Functionalism:  
Functionalists look at society as being inherently stable
  - How does the Phenomenon contribute to stability
  - What are the causes of instability
    - Social Change
    - Social Integration



# Evaluation of Example 2

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At best the step for Example 2 will get .5 pts. The student included a picture, which I like. The student demonstrated that they knew what Functionalism was (or at least they could copy the definition from the notes). But they did not apply this knowledge to their subject.

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## Example 3

# Gangs: Functionalist Perspective

- Functionalists would study gangs as to how they contribute and/or detract from social stability.
- Contribute
  - Sort people into different, identifiable groups
  - Provide an example of deviance
  - Inspire the development of institutions of social control and total institutions
- Detract
  - Separate individuals from mainstream society
    - Lack of social integration
  - Gang advancement may be too much change for a community



# Evaluation of Example 3

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Example 3 is much better. The student demonstrates knowledge of the Functionalist perspective and applies that knowledge to the phenomenon that they are studying. But the student doesn't go that extra step. This slide would merit 1 pt or maybe 1.5 pts.

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## Example 4

# Gangs: Functionalist Perspective

- Functionalists would study gangs as to how they contribute and/or detract from social stability.
- Contribute
  - Sort people into different, identifiable groups
  - Provide an example of deviance
  - Inspire the development of institutions of social control and total institutions
- Detract
  - Separate individuals from mainstream society
    - Lack of social integration
  - Gang advancement may be too much change for a community



Strain Theory: People in poor urban centers will be encouraged to join gangs because they are unable to achieve socially accepted goals through legitimate means

According to Merton, gangs could be seen as innovators, achieving social goals through an illegitimate process

# Evaluation of Example 4

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Example 4 demonstrates what it would take to get 2 pts for this step. The student demonstrates and applies knowledge of functionalism to their phenomenon. But the student also goes the extra mile to tie in social theory that applies to functionalism and gangs. The student demonstrates more in-depth understanding of this subject.

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## Example 5

# Gangs: Functionalist Perspective

- Functionalists would study gangs as to how they contribute and/or detract from social stability.
- Contribute
  - Sort people into different, identifiable groups
  - Provide an example of deviance
  - Inspire the development of institutions of social control and total institutions
- Detract
  - Separate individuals from mainstream society
    - Lack of social integration
  - Gang advancement may be too much change for a community



Blade (pseudonym) is a gang member. He describes how he chose to join a gang because he was a foster kid, without a family connection and his school “wasn’t teachin’ me nothin’ an’ wasn’ getting me nowhere.” Blade found the respect and status that he could not get in society with his “homeboys on the street.”

# Evaluation of Example 5

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Example 5 is another example of a 2 point completion of the step. In this case the student demonstrated knowledge of functionalism, but tied it in with a real life example.

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# Creativity

Some of you are doing very creative projects for which I will have to develop more creative criterion to judge the level of understanding. Others will also demonstrate deeper understanding through other ways, such as offering a critique of the steps as they are applied. You may link other subjects into the sociology that you offer. You may synthesize different theories and perspectives or elaborate the accuracy or validity of the steps to what you are doing. All of these methods demonstrate that you have gone the extra step in understanding the topic and will merit you higher points.

Don't be afraid to take risks and have fun with this assignment. If I have any questions about the format in which you present the project I will ask for clarity. The goal is to get you thinking outside of the box.