
Accessed from:
http://eresearch.qmu.ac.uk/902/

Repository Use Policy
The full-text may be used and/or reproduced, and given to third parties for personal research or study, educational or not-for-profit purposes providing that:

- The full-text is not changed in any way
- A full bibliographic reference is made
- A hyperlink is given to the original metadata page in eResearch

eResearch policies on access and re-use can be viewed on our Policies page: http://eresearch.qmu.ac.uk/policies.html

Copyright © and Moral Rights for this article are retained by the individual authors and/or other copyright owners.

http://eresearch.qmu.ac.uk
The Task At Hand

Employing a synthesis of the ideas of Choi and Fandt (2007), the aim of the project is to provide students with an opportunity to:

(a) demonstrate a sociological understanding of real world issues
(b) describe how sociological explanations can effect positive change in people’s lives

For this assignment, students are asked to:

(a) identify with one key sociological issue
(b) explore the issue at an individual level and with the group
(c) reflect on how sociological interpretations challenge our own assumptions about the social world
(d) make suggestions about how sociological knowledge can help improve the communities in which we live, or with whom the student has identified

Step 1: Identifying an Issue

Select a social issue/problem. You should feel able to represent the issue visually, through your photographs. Identify one issue that you care the most about, or feel most connected to.

Write down what interests you about the issue. Do you care about the issue because it forms a significant part of your everyday life (e.g., your job)? Does it make you think about your own values or experiences that you may have gone through (e.g., marriage, unemployment) or a role you perform every day of your life (e.g., parent), an ascribed identity (e.g., male, female) and so on?

Step 2: Taking Photographs

Take at least 10 photographs to represent the issue you have identified.

Consider these questions:

(a) what are the key aspects of the social issue that you find puzzling?
(b) how can you effectively convey your ideas through a photograph?
(c) what are the key aspects of the social issue that you find puzzling?
(d) how can you effectively convey your ideas through a photograph?

You must consider the ethical implications of what, who or how you are photographing (Wang & Redwood-Jones, 2001).

Step 3: Selecting and Presenting the Photograph

With the tutor and the group, select one photograph that can best give voice to your ideas, and which lends itself to telling a sociological story. Use the format opposite:

Picture

Caption:

Write a couple of sentences describing the issue you are interested in.

You:

Your first name and the location or identity you are coming from.

(e.g., Laura, wife or Paul, son and so on)

Step 4: Written Description: The Issue and Me

Write up to 1000 words, considering:

What's the story?

Provide a brief overview of the sociological issue and describe why you have connected with the issue. Explain how your photograph makes you think about the issue.

Self-Reflection

How does the issue and how you have represented it connect with what, how and who you are? For example, how did your values, experiences, and identities influence the choices and selections you made?

Sociological Theories and Concepts

Which sociological concepts, theories and theorists can help you tell a story about the issue identified, and why? How do they challenge people’s common sense understandings about the issue?

The Future

What changes would you like to see in relation to the issue, as a consequence of your sociological story?