



CTL Featured Assignment Form

Your name & email: *Ana Campos-Holland, acamposh@conncoll.edu*

Name & number of course: *Introduction of Sociology (Soc 103)*

Name of assignment: *Theoretical and Methodological Paper Series*

Class size: *25 students*

Last time class was taught & when it will be taught again:

- *The course is being taught now during spring 2015*
- *The course will be taught again during fall 2016*

Description of the assignment:

I use this paper series to introduce students to the use of theory and research methods in the social sciences. After students are introduced to basic concepts, theoretical perspectives, and methodological approaches, these assignments create a space for students to exercise their creativity and intellectual freedom. In addition to engaging with theory and methods, students are able to select the topics they want to approach – types of self-presentations on social media, current political issues of interest, and institutions of choice. This intellectual freedom can make learning about theory and methods an exciting process.

Learning goals of the assignment & briefly how they relate to the goals of the course:

Course Objectives	Paper 1 Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ <i>introduction to sociology</i> ❖ <i>written communication</i> ❖ <i>critical thinking</i> ❖ <i>engagement with conflict, functionalism, and interactionism theories, and social science methodologies</i> ❖ <i>Foundational understanding of:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>key sociological concepts; the self; systems of inequality; social institutions</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ <i>In-depth understanding of:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>symbolic interactionism</i> ***<i>the self and self-presentation</i> - <i>qualitative & quantitative content analysis</i> ❖ <i>cultivate a passion for the production of knowledge</i> ❖ <i>reinforce and develop writing skills</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>promote the importance of formatting and presentation of ideas</i>
Paper 2 Objectives	Paper 3 Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ <i>In-depth understanding of:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>conflict theory</i> *** <i>group conflict and politics</i> - <i>qualitative methodology</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <i>unstructured interview</i> * <i>grounded theory approach</i> ❖ <i>cultivate a passion for the production of knowledge</i> ❖ <i>reinforce and develop writing skills</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>promote the importance of formatting and presentation of ideas</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ <i>In-depth understanding of:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>functionalism</i> ***<i>social institutions & functions</i> - <i>quantitative methodology: survey</i> ❖ <i>cultivate a passion for the production of knowledge</i> ❖ <i>reinforce and develop writing skills</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>promote the importance of formatting and presentation of ideas</i>

Each paper assignment is carefully weaved with course objectives, especially aiming to engage students' creativity and intellectual freedom.

What you like about the assignment & why you think it is effective:

I provide students with detailed instructions to engagement with theory and methods. However, one of the best parts of this assignment is engaging their creativity and intellectual freedom. And from student evaluations and casual conversations, it is this aspect of the assignments that is the most effective. I have had students write about an endless list of topics, from Miley Cyrus' self-presentation on social media to the legalization of marijuana.

You may also include any additional supporting artifacts (e.g. handouts that the students get).

- *See 3 attached handouts.*

Please email this completed sheet & any supporting materials, including the assignment itself, to Ann Schenk (alsch@conncoll.edu) by Friday, June 13.