

Soc 382: Assignment 1, Due 9/12 by 11:59pm in Brightspace

Purpose: The purpose of this assignment is to have you develop a greater understanding of how theories are applied and tested in research on victimization and reflect on this information.

What to do:

1. Select an article among the ones provided on Brightspace (Culatta et al., 2020; Franklin et al., 2012; Wang, 2022; or Zavala, 2020) in the folder for the assignment. You can only use one of those four articles.
2. Use the “How to read an empirical article” directions to help guide your reading.
3. Then answer the following in a Word or pdf file that is submitted to Brightspace using the subheadings specified (please note: we cannot accept any Mac based files).

Focus, Theory, and Approach

- What is the focus of this research? What is it that they are trying to address (this relates to the topic). Example: applying routine activities theory to sexual victimization among college women in the US
- What theory or theories are used? How is the author using those theories? Be specific in what they are doing with the theories. You will need to name the theory and specify concepts from the theory that the author is using.
- What gap is the author trying to fill (what is the contribution)? To get at this, figure out what the author is actually doing in this research. This may involve testing specific hypotheses on some aspect of the theory, applying the theory to a new area, combining ideas from multiple theories etc.

Methods

- What data is the author using?
- What are some of the key theoretical concepts that are measured? Example: measures routine activities by looking at the nights spent partying, time spent on campus, etc. You do not need to describe the specifics of the measures but rather list out some of the ones that are covered from the theory.

Results

- What are TWO key findings from this research? You do not need to cover all of them, but you do need to emphasize major ones. Look through the results section but focus more on the discussion section and what the author emphasizes.

Reactions and Reflection

- What do you think of this research? In answering this question think about some key things.
 - Are you surprised by what they found, or does it fit prior ideas that you had from classes or your own experience? You need to demonstrate some reflection here that goes beyond a brief comment.
 - Are you concerned about any of the limitations in the research? You may not be, or the issues they raise may be too complicated to get at but take a look at the limitations to see what you think. Offer some brief commentary here.
 - What do you think overall of the experience reading the article and what you learned from it?

Guidelines for Writing

- **This should be written in essay form in Times New Roman 12 point font, 1 inch margins, and double spaced. Please break your essay up into the FOUR subheadings.**
- You do NOT need to cover every detail when you draw on those sections. You are trying to distill the article down into its essential points for what is a brief summary.
- You should be able to write ONE paragraph in EACH of your FOUR sections. Thus, you should be able to write this in about four paragraphs. **You should aim for about 1.5-2 pages double spaced.**
- Write primarily using most of your own words by paraphrasing the authors' main ideas and cite with the authors' last name(s) and year of publication. **You should be citing at least once in each paragraph and sometimes more than once.** Please note, if your writing is too similar in the words and structure to the original, then you are committing plagiarism! If you need to use exact words, please quote, and cite with the authors' last name(s), year of publication, and page number. **BUT please keep your quotes to a minimum.** This is a short assignment, and the goal is for you to demonstrate in most of your own words that you have understood the material.
- Examples of citations (this uses APA format; similar formats are okay):
 - For paraphrasing/summarizing:
 - In this article, Kaufman and Walsh (2022) discuss....
 - One main finding is that male college students face a great risk of robbery victimization (Rennison and Addington, 2018).
 - For quotes:
 - According to Rennison and Addington (2018, p. 962), "male college students are victims of robbery...."
- Include the full reference in ASA, APA or similar format. **Please note, you need to cite throughout and include the full reference at the end.**

Example in APA format:

Zavala, E. (2017). A multi-theoretical framework to explain same-sex intimate partner violence perpetration and victimization: A test of social learning, strain, and self-control. *Journal of Crime and Justice*, 40(4), 478–496.

Grading:

- This will be graded out of 10 points for 10% of your final grade.
- We will be using a grading rubric where you will be rated as Failure, Struggling, Fair, Good, or Excellent in 6 areas (four areas listed above, writing, and citation/reference).
- Your grade will be based on how effectively you are able to summarize core points (in most of your own words) and offer a thoughtful reaction and reflection.
- You will lose some credit for writing issues (spelling errors, run-on sentences, poor word choice, poor grammar).
- **You will lose credit if you do not cite or cite incorrectly!**

- **If you plagiarize, you will have a failing grade on the assignment and be reported to the university! Please note that using ChatGPT or other AI programs is considered cheating and will result in a failing grade and a report to the university!**