Writing Assignment I:

Comprehending, Applying, and Analyzing the Sources of Sociology

The purpose of this assignment is to demonstrate your ability to define and identify some of the major sociological perspectives, their sources, and their applications in the real world.

THE TASK: Use *The Sociological Imagination* (Mills, 1959) handout, as well as your Brym and Lie (2012) textbook and class-notes, to answer Task A; you must respond to at least one other Task (B or C).

Submit your final draft by start of class Thursday, March 26.

**TASK A: The Sociological Imagination according to Brym and Lie (2012) and Mills (1959)**

1. What is Sociology?
2. Give a precise definition and summary of the main components of the "sociological imagination" (Mills, 1959). Be sure to explain the difference between "personal troubles" and "public issues".
3. Based on what Mills (1959) says, what do you think are differences between sociology and psychology?

**TASK B: Patterns of behavior and social conditions**

1. How did society view suicide before Emile Durkheim's study? As far as Emile Durkheim was concerned, what are some of the behaviors and conditions associated with suicide?
2. How does the concept of social solidarity help explain suicide rates?
3. Based on your own perspective, what other social condition(s) might help explain a sudden increase or decrease in macro- or global-suicide rates? Be as specific as possible!

**TASK C: Structural solutions to negative consequences**

1. As far as Karl Marx was concerned, what social conditions developed as a consequence of the Industrial Revolution?
2. How was Marx wrong in his predictions? In other words, what are some of the structural solutions that might have prevented (or might still prevent) the poor workers from revolting against the rich business owners?
3. Based on your own perspective, what are some other structural solutions you would enact on a macro- or global scale to improve society? Be as specific as possible!
THE GRADE: Essays will consist of two pages but no more than three pages in length: writing on one side of a page constitutes one page; writing on the front and back side of a page constitutes two pages. Select Times New Roman, 12-point font with double-spacing. Grades primarily derive from student’s ability to comprehend textbook and lecture material while “breaking down” social problems and proposing real-world solutions.

Heading information belongs in the top left corner should include:

Name
SOCI 1010
Writing Assignment I: Sources of Sociology, A & (B or C)
Date Submitted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Grammar</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Formatting</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“A-B” paper</td>
<td>Respond to 2 tasks; at least 1 paragraph per question/statement</td>
<td>Fewer than 4 grammatical and/or spelling errors</td>
<td>A clear introduction and conclusion; one main theme per paragraph; logical flow.</td>
<td>A page length of 2 to 3 pages; proper heading information</td>
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<td>“B-C” paper</td>
<td>Respond to 2 tasks; all questions answered</td>
<td>4 to 6 grammatical and/or spelling errors.</td>
<td>An unclear introduction and conclusion; one main theme per paragraph; logical flow.</td>
<td>A page length of 2 pages; proper heading information.</td>
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<td>“C-D” paper</td>
<td>Respond to only 1 task; all questions answered</td>
<td>7 to 9 grammatical and/or spelling errors.</td>
<td>No intro or conclusion; general logical flow but not very well done, not consistent on paragraph theme.</td>
<td>A page length of 1 to 2 pages; improper heading information.</td>
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