FINAL PAPER ASSIGNMENT
INEQUALITY AND…
Sociology 110A
Spring 2005

PHASE I: DEVELOP RESEARCH QUESTION AND DATA COLLECTION PLAN
TARGET DATE 05/13

*Complete together with section-based assigned iroups*
✧ Select specific sub-topic and research question
  ▪ get your research question approved
✧ Develop data collection strategy to address this topic and question
✧ Consider what sub-population is appropriate for your data collection
✧ Secure TA approval of data collection strategy

PHASE II: COLLECT DATA BETWEEN 05/14 AND 05/20

*Complete individually*
✧ Take detailed notes as you go (your research notes must be turned in with final paper!)

PHASE III: WRITE DRAFT OF PAPER DUE 05/27

*Complete individually and submit to group for peer-review*

General paper guidelines
✧ You may use additional data in your paper, if you like. This could include census data or other reputable statistical data, research reports, or scholarly books to augment your interview data.
✧ Be sure to fully cite all sources you consult. This means including the author, title, date published, and publisher (or journal). If you consult web pages, include all of the above and the complete url address.
✧ Clearly identify all direct quotations (from both your data and from other sources).
✧ Page lengths are targets
✧ You may combine sections 3 and 4, as long as you both describe and interpret your data.
✧ Writing Counts!!
  o Organize your thoughts before writing
  o Write clear and meaningful sentences
  o Use proper grammar, punctuation, and syntax
- Use a spell checker and proof-read your paper
- Do not use words whose meaning you do not know
- Avoid run-on sentences and sentence fragments

Specific Guidelines (i.e., your draft should do all these things):
1. Describe the sub-topic/research question your group selected (approx. ½ page)
   - What is the question?
   - Why might it be interesting?
   - What do you think the answer might be?
2. Describe your research strategy, and the population you will study (approx. ½ -1 page)
   - Note that the specific questions below might not be as appropriate for each research strategy
   - What is the pool from which you will draw your subjects?
   - Why is this a relevant context to help you learn about your research question?
3. Describe and/or summarize the results of your data collection (approx. 2 pages)
   - What were the results of your research
   - Be sure to give examples of specific comments.
   - You may summarize responses to some questions in tables, if you like.
4. Interpret your data (approx. 1-2 pages)
   - What patterns do you find in your data/responses? Discuss how these patterns might shed light on your initial research question.
   - Put your data into context. To do this, you might consider questions like:
     - Why did respondents answer the way they did?
     - Do you think people differently situated might have responded differently? Why or why not?
     - Do your subjects tell their stories in terms of troubles or issues?
     - Can you make sense of the interviews in terms of the social context in which your respondents live?
5. Revisit your initial question, in light of what you have learned from your data collection? (approx. ½ - 1 page)
   - Can you draw any conclusions based on your data (your interviews)?
   - What else would you like to know?
What other empirical information would shed light on your research question?

**PHASE IV: PEER REVIEW**

*Due 05/30*

*Complete for each other member of your group*

+ Read and comment on each of the papers written by members of your groups
+ Use the specific guidelines above to guide your feedback
+ Be specific and constructive in your review of others’ work
+ Avoid general comments like, “this is a really good paper.”
+ Identify which particular aspect(s) of the paper you think the writer should focus his/her energies on during the re-writing process
+ Direct the author to the results of your data collection, especially if your data either supports or contradicts the author’s interpretation

**PHASE V: REVISE PAPER**

*Final paper due 06/3*

*Complete individually*

+ Rewrite paper based on feedback from group members.
+ Most revisions will involve serious rewriting (not just a few editorial changes/fixing typos)
+ When rewriting, you should consider suggestions concerning both content and form. Pay particular attention to feedback about:
  - Your discussion of the research question
  - Your discussion of the research design/method/approach
  - Your presentation of your data
  - The interpretation of your data
  - The conclusions you draw
  - Your paper’s organization
  - Your writing style/clarity of presentation
+ In revision, you may add a new section to your paper that discusses how your findings relate to the findings of other members of your group (approx. 1 additional page). If you do this, be sure it is reflected in your revised conclusion.

**ADDITIONAL NOTE**

The final draft of your paper should include two appendices:

- Appendix I: your interview questions
- Appendix II: your original hand-written interview notes