SOC 205: Poverty, Race and Health
Guidelines for the Rebuttal Paper

The purpose of this paper is to have you to think critically about some issue you uncover in the literature. More specifically, you will be required to find an argument that is made in one of several sources (e.g., required readings, supplemental readings, on-line lecture notes) and take an opposing position. If you want to refute an argument in the literature that does not come from one of these sources, you may do so but you MUST receive permission from me to do so. In writing the paper, you will need to (1) summarize the argument that is being made in the reference you choose; (2) state your counter-argument to that position; and (3) provide evidence to support your position. The evidence must come in the form of other literature on the topic.

FORMATTING GUIDELINES

Length
As is indicated in the syllabus, the paper must be 4-5 pages long. That page length does not include the title page or bibliography.

Typeface and margins
All pages must be typed or printed using a 12 point font (Courier or Times) and should be double-spaced. Margins must be 1 to 1-¼ inches on all sides.

Page numbers
All manuscript pages (i.e., not including the title page) must be numbered at the bottom center of the page. The page numbers should be place ½ inch from the bottom of the page.

Title Page
The title page must have the following items: title of the paper, your name, course number and name (i.e., SOC 205: Poverty, Race and Health), and the date you are submitting it.

Quotations
Quotations may be used but must conform to the style guidelines published in The Chicago Manual of Style. Copies of this publication are available in the reference section of the Graduate Library. I also have a copy in my office that you are welcome to use.

Headings and subheadings
Your manuscript can include headings to denote changes in topics, specific arguments, etc., but they are not required. If you do use headings, they should be typed using all capital letters and should not be indented. Examples of headings are INTRODUCTION, REBUTTAL, EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF REBUTTAL ARGUMENT.

Citations and references
Your paper must use at least two references, one that generates the argument you are attacking and another that provides evidence to support your position. I would encourage you to have more than one reference to support your position, but it is not required. If you argue against some point in the lecture notes, cite the lecture notes for that day as an unpublished manuscript (i.e., like a journal article but with no reference to a journal or volume number). Citations and references must be formatted in the style used by the American Sociological Review. A copy of those guidelines is attached to this page and is available on the course web page. Your references must be printed in a separate section titled “REFERENCES.” All of the references cited in the text must also be in the reference section, and vice versa.
b. **Citations** in the text give the last name of the author(s) and year of publication. Include page numbers whenever you quote directly from a work or refer to specific passages. Cite only those works needed to provide evidence for your assertions and to guide readers to important sources on your topic. In the following examples of text citations, ellipses ( . . . ) indicate manuscript text:

- If an author’s name is in the text, follow it with the year in parentheses— . . . Duncan (1959); if an author’s name is not in the text, enclose the last name and year in parentheses— . . . (Gouldner 1963).
- Pages cited follow the year of publication after a colon— . . . (Ramirez and Weiss 1979:239–40).
- Give both last names for joint authors— . . . (Martin and Bailey 1988).
- For works with three authors, list all three last names in the first citation in the text— . . . (Carr, Smith, and Jones 1962). For all subsequent citations use “et al.”— . . . (Carr et al. 1962). For works with four or more authors, use “et al.” throughout.
- For institutional authorship, supply minimal identification from the complete citation— . . . (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1963:117).
- List a series of citations in alphabetical order or date order separated by semicolons— . . . (Burgess 1968; Marwell et al. 1971).
- Use “forthcoming” to cite sources scheduled for publication. For dissertations and unpublished papers, cite the date. If no date, use “n.d.” in place of the date— . . . Smith (forthcoming) and Oropesa (n.d.).
- For machine-readable data files, cite authorship and date— . . . (Institute for Survey Research 1976).

List the references in alphabetical order by authors’ last names; include first names and middle initials for all authors when available. List two or more entries by the same author(s) in order of the year of publication. If the cited material is not yet published but has been accepted for publication, use “Forthcoming” in place of the date and give the journal name or publishing house. For dissertations and unpublished papers, cite the date and place the paper was presented and/or where it is available. If no date is available, use “N.d.” in place of the date.

If two or more cited works are by the same author(s) within the same year, list them in alphabetical order by title and distinguish them by adding the letters a, b, c, etc., to the year (or to “Forthcoming”). For works with more than one author, only the name of the first author is inverted (e.g., “Jones, Arthur B., Colin D. Smith, and James Petersen”). List all authors; using “et al.” in the reference list is not acceptable.

A few examples follow. Refer to the ASA Style Guide (1996) for additional examples:

  
  

  


