

SOCL 105 – Research Assignment

Some Suggested Subject Terms (Descriptors) for Searching the *Sociological Abstracts Database*

Essay 1

Sociologists argue that we are products of nurture (i.e., socialization); therefore, one’s economic success reflects a combination of personal ability and effort, as well as ascription (e.g., class, race, ethnicity, gender, family, etc.). Write an essay evaluating the different sociological factors that play a role in one’s ability to achieve economic success in the U.S.

Economic Success (Descriptors)	Sociological Variables (Descriptors)	United States (Descriptors)
Affluence Wealth Income Distribution Income Inequality	Socioeconomic Status Socioeconomic Factors Social Class Social Background Class Differences Race Racial Differences Black White Differences Minority Groups Ethnicity Ethnic Groups Sex or Sex Differences Gender Differences Sexual Inequality Age Differences Marital Status Educational Attainment	United States of America

Essay 2

Max Weber asserted that industrialized societies would become somewhat of a prison for people: an “iron cage”. All aspects of people’s lives would be controlled/regulated (e.g., when they wake up, what time they go to work, the kinds of jobs they perform, the goals, they should have, etc.) leaving little or no room to freely choose how they wanted to live. Write an essay critically evaluating whether our postindustrialized society today has become an “iron cage” for many people.

Postindustrial Society (Descriptors)	“Iron Cage” Related Concepts (Descriptors)		
Postindustrial Societies Information Society Mass Society Industrial Societies Bureaucracy	Social Control Privacy Surveillance Regimentation Constraints Alienation	Apathy Anomie Anonymity Freedom Aspiration Occupational Choice	Self Concept Self Esteem Identity