

400-level Comprehensive Senior Projects

Criterion	Excellent	Good	Adequate	Poor	Missing
Thesis Statement/Main Idea	Clearly and concisely states the paper's purpose in an engaging sentence.	Clearly states the paper's purpose in a single sentence.	States the paper's purpose in a single sentence.	Incomplete and/or unfocused.	Absent, no evidence.
Sociological Sophistication	Excels in responding to assignment. Interesting, demonstrates sophistication of thought, use of sociological imagination.	A solid paper, responding appropriately to assignment. Clearly states a thesis/central idea, but may have minor lapses in sociological thinking.	Adequate but weaker and less effective, possibly responding less well to assignment. Presents central idea in general terms, often depending on non-sociological platitudes or clichés.	Does not have a clear central idea or does not respond appropriately to the assignment.	Does not respond to the assignment, lacks a thesis or central idea, and may neglect to use sources where necessary.
Organizational Structure and Coherence	Uses a logical structure appropriate to paper's subject, purpose, audience, thesis, and sociology.	Shows a logical progression of ideas and uses fairly sophisticated transitional devices. Some logical links may be faulty, but each paragraph clearly relates to paper's central idea.	May list ideas or arrange them randomly rather than using any evident logical structure.	May have random organization, lacking internal paragraph coherence and using few or inappropriate transitions.	Absent, no evidence.
Literature Review	Literature review was thorough and literature was directly relevant to the research problem, research design, and thesis.	Literature was directly relevant to research problem, research design, and thesis directly or indirectly. Some gaps in literature.	Literature was somewhat relevant to the research problem, research design, or thesis. Many gaps in literature.	Literature was not relevant to the research problem, research design, or thesis directly or indirectly.	Absent, no evidence.
Methods	Research design, sampling and operationalization are well-defined and well-suited to the research question.	Research design, sampling and operationalization are defined and suited to the research question. Some concepts not fully described but research design is sound.	Presents research design, sampling or operationalization in general terms.	Research design not relevant to research question. Does not define research design, sampling or operationalization.	Absent, no evidence.
Use of Relevant Evidence	Use of evidence appropriately and effectively, providing sufficient evidence and explanation to convince.	Begins to offer reasons to support its points, perhaps using varied kinds of evidence.	Often uses generalizations to support its points. May use examples, but they may be obvious or not relevant.	Depends on clichés or overgeneralizations for support, or offers little evidence of any kind.	Absent, no evidence.
Findings	Findings presented clearly and thoroughly, with full discussion of their implications for the research question and sociological knowledge.	Findings presented clearly and thoroughly, with some discussion of their implications.	Findings presented with little discussion of their implications.	Findings not presented clearly or thoroughly.	Absent, no evidence.
Grammar	No errors in sentence structure and work usage, punctuation, capitalization and spelling.	Almost no errors in sentence structure and work usage, punctuation, capitalization and spelling.	Many errors in sentence structure, and word usage, punctuation, capitalization and spelling.	Numerous and distracting errors in sentence structure and word usage, punctuation, capitalization and spelling.	Not applicable.
Citations	All cited works are done in the correct format with no errors.	Some cited works are done in the correct format, inconsistencies evident.	Few cited works are done in the correct format.	All cited works are done in the incorrect format.	Absent, no evidence.
Reference Page	Done in the correct format with no errors. Includes the appropriate number of references (e.g. science journal articles, books), with a majority being references not used in class.	Done in the correct format with few errors. Includes the appropriate number of references (e.g. science journal articles, books), with a majority being references not used in class.	Done in the correct format with few errors. Includes the appropriate number of references (e.g. science journal articles, books), with most being references used in class.	Done in an incorrect format or with many errors. Includes the appropriate number of references (e.g. science journal articles, books), with most being references used in class.	Absent, no evidence.