You will be required to find a complete report of a sociological research study to evaluate. You are NOT writing a research paper, but beginning a literature review. Appropriate works should be found in professional/scholarly journals and texts; you MAY NOT use newspapers, mass-media magazine articles, or website postings (i.e., “popular sources”). To view a video that describes and illustrates the distinctions between these types of sources, you may click on the link to “Scholarly Vs Popular Sources” in the class shell on D2L, or you may copy this link to your browser: https://youtu.be/tN8S4CbzGXU.

Please follow these steps to find a scholarly journal article:

- Go to HACC.edu
- Click on the green “Library” tab
- Click on the red “LibGuides” tab
- On the toolbar, click on “Course Guides”
- From the list, select “Sociology”
- Within the drop-down box, select “Subject Guide”
- From the list of databases, select “SocINDEX w/ Full Text”
- On the EBSCOhost browser, please locate and check the box marked “Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals”; within the “Select A Field” box, you may enter topics of interest; to narrow the results, you may be more specific by filling in more than one field.

Once you have found an article that is of interest to you, review it to be sure all the elements of the research process (statement of problem/abstract, hypothesis, sample, methods, and results/findings) are addressed within the article. Print a copy of the article, read it thoroughly (you may highlight or make other notes within the article itself), and answer the questions listed below. Please type the questions and your responses into a separate word document, print your submission, attach a copy of the original research article, and submit it at the beginning of class on the date specified. Please remember to identify yourself by putting your name, HACC ID number, and the day(s)/time of your class meeting on the first page of your submission.
Each element of the evaluation will be scored on a 10-point scale for a total possible score of 50 points.

10: Excellent  
9 – 8: Very Good  
7 – 6: Average  
5 or below: Poor

(1) Overview: Please specify the title and author(s) of the research report you are evaluating. Provide an overview of the social problem or issue being addressed by the researcher(s).

(2) Sample: Who did the researcher(s) sample for the study? Does the sample represent the population it claims to represent? Why or why not? Discuss/assess the size of the sample. Was the sample sufficiently randomized?

(3) Method: Which of the following method(s) were used to gather the data: survey, content analysis, observation, case study, or secondary analysis? What is your assessment of the choice of the method(s) used? Do the conclusions drawn fit the method(s) used? Explain.

(4) Findings: Provide a summary of the primary finding/results of the research. Does this study provide a new outlook or perspective on the topic, or does it support the findings of previous studies? Explain.

(5) Overall Assessment: Do you agree with the researcher(s)’ findings? Why or why not? Based on your evaluation of the sociological research, how would you rate the quality of the study? You may use a 1 – 10 scale, but also please explain your rating.