

Fall 2009

## Paper 2

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### Repository Citation

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## Introduction to Sociology Paper #2

Due Dates:

**Rough Draft Due in Class: Tuesday December 8**

**Final Draft Due in my mailbox in Storch by NOON on Monday December 14.**

On December 14, you should turn in your edited rough draft, peer review sheet, and final draft. This paper is worth 17.5% of your final grade. Your rough draft is worth 2.5% of your grade.

For this paper, you should select **one** of the paper topics below. This paper should be 6-8 pages, double spaced, Times New Roman font with 1" margins.

**Topic #1:** There are three different explanations for educational and occupational outcomes: structure, culture, and individual choices/agency. For example, *structural* accounts emphasize the roots of social inequality in difficult to change social institutions, creating inevitable outcomes. *Cultural* accounts, such as the "culture of poverty" theory emphasize the roots of social inequality in cultural differences, particularly the cultural differences between subcultures and the dominant culture. Explanations that emphasize *agency* stress the individual choices that individuals make that lead to educational and occupational outcomes.

In your paper give a brief summary of the structural, cultural and individual explanations for the outcomes of the Hallway Hangers and the Brothers. Then, select the theoretical perspective that you think best explains the educational and occupational outcomes described in the book. If relevant, use the theories from the second chapter of MacLeod. Make a convincing argument using examples from the book that your theory is the best explanation.

**Topic #2.** MacLeod discusses three social identities that play a critical role in the way we understand the Hallway Hangers and the Brothers---class, race, and gender. In MacLeod's explanation of the educational and occupational outcomes of both the Hallway Hangers and the Brothers, summarize the role that class, race and gender plays in these outcomes. How does race, class and gender shape (or not) the outcomes of both groups? Then select the social identity that you think is the most salient or most influential in the outcomes described by MacLeod. If relevant, you may select a different social identity for the Hallway Hangers and the Brothers. Using evidence from the book, make a convincing argument that either class, race or gender is the most influential in the outcomes described by MacLeod.