**Social Problems Final Project**

**Organizations for Change**

Points: 300 Date Due: Week 10

Overview: In the final project, students will use the knowledge gained over the quarter to demonstrate their understanding of a social problem and the real life organizations that attempt to address the issue. In small groups, students will first choose a social problem they are interested in; and then through scholarly research identify the causes, scope, and consequences. They then will choose and research an organization that attempts to address this social problem, examining through Internet research the organization’s mission, approach, resources, and effectiveness.

Task: The final project will synthesize student learning in the course through a mini paper with bibliography, poster and oral presentation.

Here is how you should proceed with this project:

1. Define the Problem

In small groups, students will first choose a social problem. Students will generate ideas for their chosen social problem from media assignments, concept maps, and readings from the course.

1. Research the Problem

Using **scholarly research**, find out:  
a.    When/how did this social problem arise?

b.    What is the scope of the problem?

c. What are the objective realities of this social problem? In other words, what can

we confirm about this social problem through the collection of data?

d. What are the subjective realities of this social problem? How is the problem

socially constructed? What structures or institutions play a role in this

construction? For instance, how does the mainstream media frame this problem?

e.     Who is harmed by this problem? Who benefits?

1. Write a mini paper with bibliography
   1. Summarize the above points in a short paper (3-4 pages).
   2. Include at least 10 scholarly sources.
2. Research an Organization

Choose and research an organization that attempts to address the social problem. The organization should be large enough that you are able to find information and resources about them. Begin research on your organization(in other words, a summary of what is already known about your organization – its history, successes and failures, size, resources, public response to it, and so on). You do this by familiarizing yourselves as much as possible with what is already known about your organization.

Using **Internet research**, examine the following:

1. What is the organization’s mission?
2. Which sociological perspective(s) are reflective in this organization’s mission/orientation? Provide evidence.
3. How does the organization approach the particular social problem? Is it successful? Why or why not?
4. What resources does it utilize? What resources does it appear to need?
5. Poster: Create a poster or other visual presentation in reference to the organization researched and the social problem it addresses. Posters should present a clear message about your organization and should include the following:
   1. 70/30 ratio of visual images to text
   2. Title (Name of the Organization), Group Member Names
   3. Use graphs, charts, diagrams, and other images as needed that support the work of the organization
6. Presentation: Presentations should demonstrate the group’s overall basic interpretation of a social problem through the use of the sociological imagination. Each group will produce a 15 minute presentation. Students will be graded on:

a. Content: Is the information being presented accurate and complete?

b. Contribution: All team members are present and participate in the presentations

c. Execution: Is the presentation creative? Interesting? Does the group stay within the time parameters?