**SPRING 2011**

**Feedback from SOC instructors**

**SOC 101 Commons Assignment**

**Patrick Crowley**

The common introduction to sociology assignment is a great addition to my curriculum. The questions were developed by sociologists for sociologists in training, so to understand their experiences and perspectives is a great attribute to my own teaching and sociological thought. Having this assignment toward the end of the semester, but not at the end I've found to also be a good technique for feedback on the course and instruction. This provides time to communicate with students about their and my strengths and weaknesses.

One other advantage about adding this common assignment to my curriculum is that it provides even more diversity in learning styles. This provides an outlet for students who display their abilities through writing and critical thinking while giving other students an opportunity to improve those skills.

The statistical analyses each semester provide the sociology department with feedback that we would not get otherwise or in the same manner.

**Daniel Boudon**

Comments:  I think our students are learning, on the average I gave students around 16 points a question which puts them in between developing and proficient.  They're able to express their ideas and opinions very well, but some don't use the proper the terminology or in most cases enough of it to push them into the proficient level.  I think the common assessment is a useful tool and I think it's particularly uplifting to know that students are gaining a heightened level of social awareness from being in our courses.  I think it's helpful in getting a look at where students are at in the course, I also use it as an additional opportunity to remind them how to frame their ideas when writing academically.  I hope this is helpful :)

**Shawn Hutton**

My thought are that some students did very well on it and most of the either didn't do it at all or skipped entire questions.  As far as it measuring the student progress, I don't view it being very accurate as the best scores were the best students and they have done consistently good work all semester.

Also, for some bizarre reason, the students in both classes appeared to be confused that this was a test and I had to unlock it several times for a large number of people.  Just some random observations from this semester’s attempts.  Thanks!

**Iris Love**

While all of my students were required to complete the SOC 101 Common Assignment, about 98% of them completed and submitted their essays in a timely manner. I share the following statement based on what I read in their essays:

“The SOC 101 common assignment was a great tool, not only for assessing my students, but also assessing my teaching methods. I try to challenge my students to think like sociologist, by coming up with their own theories to solving social problems in their communities, and globally. Equally important in my classroom is to prepare my students to think critically and communicate effectively about social realities, and I challenge them to apply those insights in their lives.

Based on how my sociology 101 students answered the 5 essay questions, I am confident that they are learning, and gaining a better understanding of the society in which they live, play and learn.

By incorporating the SOC 101 common assignment as a part of my “required” classroom assignments, and thoroughly reading their essays, I am better prepared for the delivery of my lectures in future sociology classes.”

**Candace Bailey**

Not everyone completed this assignment, in fact, I would say a little more than half, which is unusual because most of the students do the assignments.  I remember this happening last year too.

Most students really enjoyed the class.  All but one said they would be participating in advocacy work with one of the organizations they studied this semester.  One student said she would just donate money.  There was also a lot of good feedback with details of what their favorite things to learn were.

Most students reported they felt they were more open minded and a few had changed their positions on some social issues.

With Soc 101, I always get a lot of good feedback.  The assignments are really eye opening and they seem to really appreciate it.

**Toni Rodriguez**

The Common Sociology Assignment was given to my students as their third and final assignment for the semester. I found that the assignment allowed the students to be aware of the many different aspects of sociology. It prepares them for future sociology classes and allows them to put sociological aspects to real-life situations. It also allows them to open their eyes to the social communities and societies within this country as well as the rest of the world.

I asked my class what they thought about the assignment and half of the class enjoyed it and that other half said it was just okay. They were worried about 200 minimum word count. The students that liked the assignment mentioned that they liked how there were several different questions and how it allowed them to focus on sociology as a whole.