Portfolio Reflection 2: Methodology

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**Step 2:** From those classes find three papers that you wrote that reflect learning that you did in those classes. Discuss how you think your writing about methodology has changed over those three papers. You can talk about how your writing has become more sociological, the structure of your writing, or your writing ability in general.

The three papers I chose to write about come from my SOC 351 class, SOCL 345 class, and SOC 346 class. The first paper (FLE Research Summary) focuses on inequality, and the second paper (Stats Reflection) focuses on focuses on methodology. and the third paper (Literature Review) focuses on institutions.

When writing my **FLE Research Summary** for my SOCL 351 course, I focused on writing about how inequality affects the emotional and psychological abuse of a child. I focused on ways that we can prevent and educate parents on emotional and psychological abuse when it comes to a child's well-being. I collected my information and data for this paper through scholarly articles that included specific statistics on the topic of emotional and psychological abuse. The structure of this paper is organized and discusses the way I would go about educating others and my plan on how to prevent it. I discussed making a brochure that could be found in doctors' offices and OBGYN offices for mothers who are expecting. I believe my writing style has grown significantly since writing this paper in April of 2023. I would say my writing has become more sociological through the completion of writing data-filled papers such as this one.

When writing my **Stats Reflection** for SOCL 345, I focused on writing about collecting and imputing data into SPSS with 2 different variables. My variables were parent involvement and household income. I collected my data through surveys and then took that data and transformed it into a variable. I learned through this course how to collect data, how to transform it into variables, and how to use online platforms to code my data. I can use this information learned in my future job when it comes to collecting data, plugging it into spreadsheets, and creating variables. I believe my writing during my time in this course was very sociological and data-centered. This paper is very different than my normal writing style and includes variables and is more math-centered than sociological.

When writing my **Literature review** for SOCL 346, I wrote about a child's homework completion with the correlation to parent involvement in the household. I believe that since taking my SOCL 345 and 346, I have learned how to write more sociologically and how to compare and contrast data. Research from my paper showed that parent involvement has a correlation to homework completion for a child. Research found that those parents who help their children with homework result in the child having higher rates of homework completion, fewer homework problems, and improved academic performance in elementary school children. The author then used a 3-panel, cross-lagged regression model to empirically investigate this claim which showed that the analysis reveals no support for the reactive hypothesis. Before writing this paper, I did not know what a cross-lagged regression model was or how to properly collect data.

**Step 3:** Create a page in your E-Portfolio and discuss the major aspects of social research methodology that you believe are central to understanding the social research process. You can focus on specific concepts of the overall process.

I believe the major aspects of social research methodology are theory, logic, and methods. When conducting social research, you must create a theory, measure the variables, and collect data. Social research can be either qualitative or quantitative. In my 3 papers, I use quantitative data that uses numerical data. I think that when writing it is vital to understand the social research process of the data you are discussing. For example, in my papers, I discussed surveying groups of people and turning those surveys into data, which I then turned into variables. Once I had the variables, I was able to predict future data and see the patterns in the data. I think the best way to collect data is through surveys in society. As a sociologist, you want to collect real raw data from the population and you can do that through surveys. Besides surveys, we can use interviews, case studies, experiments, participant observation, and quantitative research.

**Step 4:** Utilizing your industry reflections, how could you use the skills and knowledge learned in your research methods and statistics courses to help you perform the duties of the job you are seeking?

The skills and knowledge I have learned in my research and statistics courses will help me perform in my future career in many ways. I now know how to collect and conduct surveys and the best way to contact people as well as technology knowledge. I learned how to use R-Studio and SPSS to turn my data into variables to predict future data. I think that knowing how to deal with quantitative data in many different careers is important. I now know how to collect and analyze data and statistics that will help in me in my future careers.

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