1. In class this week we looked at Social Institutions – The Family and interpreted what makes/what is considered a family. This unit emphasized that definitions of family are fluid and are constantly changing. At the beginning of class, we were asked to draw a picture of what family means to us and then explain our picture and why we drew that picture. This unit relates to the 3rd course specific outcome, “Demonstrate knowledge of the core concepts within sociology.” This activity taught us how to examine patterns with the social world. This activity relates to the 3rd specific course outcome because is showing how we should think from a sociological perspective by understanding social patters and understanding how these patters are produced and reinforced throughout society. Lastly, this activity showed us that family is social constructed.
2. This week we discussed family as a social institution and analyzed how the definition of family is complexed and constantly changing. This relates to the 2nd course specific learning outcome “Explain how sociologists work and what sociologists do.” In class we discussed how there are five big ways individuals constitutes what defines a family such as, Biological, Legal, Economic, Emotional, and Spatial. Also, in class we talked about how there are certain benefits, rights, and privileges associated with being in a family. It is important to understand how definitions of family have changed and continues to change because understand the social construct of family can provide insight into how laws, culture, and society are changing overall. For example, we now include heterosexual, stepparents, same-sex parents, single-parent families, intergenerational families, childless families, etc. in our definitions our family. This relates to the 2nd learning outcome because it shows how sociologists continue to work to understand our changing definitions of what makes a family.
3. I found it interesting how single parenthood is at an all time high and is more accepted now than ever before. I found this interesting because I know that in the past single parents have been viewed as less than/inferior to two parent families, so I was glad to see that perceptions of families are changing for the better. I Also found it interesting how there are many different forms of families, however most of the pictures my peers drew wear pictures of a nuclear family. This activity taught me to further expand my knowledge of what I think constitutes a family.