Final Research Paper Assignment

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**Sociology 3301W: Introduction to Political Sociology**

**Due:** Wednesday, December 13, 11:15am (beginning of class)

**Length:** Approximately 6 pages, Times 12 double-spaced.

Your task is to extend and deepen the analysis that you began in Research Assignment 2. Do so in the following ways:

1. Provide more historical background, information, and examples about your organization, incorporating material from Research Assignment 1 and/or additional observations and research.
2. Expand research and discussion of your main theoretical concept(s).
   -- Do at least 3 readings _on your concept_ (beyond assigned readings).
3. Provide additional (and more detailed) discussion and examples linking theoretical concepts to your organization.

Your task is to bring together research and observations about your organization with research on important concepts from class (extending Research Assignment 2). In essence, you must do a case study of your organization that illustrates sociological ideas. _The important thing is that you clearly show how your organization and its activities illustrate sociological concepts._

Here is one possible structure for your paper (but you may use others):

**I. Introduction**

Briefly introduce the topic of your paper -- what your organization is and what concepts it exemplifies. Also, take time to introduce your theoretical concept. Provide definitions or discussion to show that you have some basic understanding of your concept(s).

**II. Organizational Case Study**

A. Background -- The Organization

Provide some history and background description of your organization to provide context. (Many of you already did this in your papers.)

B. Application of Concepts to the Case
How does your organization serve as an example or illustration of your concept(s)? This is the heart of the paper. Incorporate ideas about your concept (from class, readings, and your library research). At each step, clearly indicate how the organization exemplifies the concept. Provide specific links and/or examples. This section is the most important part of your paper, and will be weighted most in determining your grade.

Note: Parts A and B may be integrated or kept separate.

**III. Discussion/Conclusion**

Take some time to reflect: Were insights gained from applying this concept to your organization? Were there some exceptions or anomalies where the concept did not apply well? Provide a short concluding paragraph that summarizes and wraps up your paper.