

SOC 229 – WRITING ASSIGNMENT
Reflection on Your Clothing

DUE DATE: 3:30pm Friday March 31 at the ARTS I reception desk. There will be no turn-it-in for this assignment.

DESCRIPTION

In this assignment you will reflect on the sociological implications of your clothing, and articulate what you can do.

INTENTION OF THE ASSIGNMENT:

- 1) to get you acquainted with the social and environmental problems associated with fast fashion
- 2) to have you use sociological materials to identify the structural sources of the problem
- 3) to have you use those same materials to come up with potential solutions to the problem

LENGTH:

The length of the reflection should be about two pages, 1.5 spaced, Times font, 12 point. In terms of word count, the writing for this assignment should be at about 600 - 800 words. This does **not** include words for the bibliography. Please, try to write succinctly (i.e. make every word count). If you find yourself going a little over 800 words, that's okay, as long as quantity is not a substitute for quality... Remember "less is more..."

WEIGHT OF THE ASSIGNMENT:

This assignment will count for 6% of the total course grade.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Write a paragraph that identifies a prized clothing article you own, how you acquired it, and why you prize that piece of clothing.
 - 2) Write a paragraph that identifies the ingredients (i.e. wool, nylon, cotton, polyester, bamboo, etc.) in that piece of clothing, and discusses the social and environmental problems associated with the production of one of those ingredients. This paragraph should include reference to concepts (i.e. ideas) covered in the course materials, such as "metabolic rift," "consumption gap," the environmental injustice concepts discussed by Michael Bell, or any other salient idea.
 - 3) Watch the *True Cost* documentary.
 - 4) Write a paragraph that discusses the source of the problem, drawing from the *True Cost* documentary and at least one other course material. Other relevant materials include Taylor and Tilford's article "Why Consumption Matters" and Fred Pearce's article "Behind the Label: Bless My Cotton Socks." However, you could also utilize the "treadmill of production" concept discussed in the both Charles Harper reading and in McCarthy and King reading ("Environmental Problems Require Social Solutions"), the "political economy of the environment" concept discussed by McCarthy and King (see p. 12), as well as any ideas that help us better identify the source of the problem.
 - 5) write a paragraph that discusses what could be done to resolve the problem you identified. The solution should flow on from the source of the problem that you identified.
 - 6) Complete the checklist on page 3
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RESOURCES

The following are resources that can help you think more deeply about this issue.

The High Environmental Cost of Fast Fashion

<http://www.triplepundit.com/2016/12/high-environmental-cost-fast-fashion/#>

The Environmental Impact

<http://truecostmovie.com/learn-more/environmental-impact/>

Fast Fashion: Cheap Clothes= Huge Environmental

<http://www.ecowatch.com/fast-fashion-1994121280.html>

Fast fashion is "drowning" the world. We need a fashion revolution!

<http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/news/Blogs/makingwaves/fast-fashion-drowning-world-fashion-revolution/blog/56222/>

Waste Couture: Environmental Impact of the Clothing Industry

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1964887/>

OPTIONAL ASSIGNMENT CHECKLIST - Soc 229 (2017 Semester 1)

- Please make sure that you comply with all of the items below
- Place a check mark (✓) next to all items that you have confirmed.
- Submit the completed checklist with the paper. I will not accept papers without the checklist.
- Also, points will be docked if you say you've done something that you have not actually done.

THE WRITING SECTION

- 1) I provided a paragraph that discusses my chosen article of clothing.
- 2) I provided a paragraph that discusses the environmental and social problems of clothing
- 3) I provided a paragraph that discusses the sources of those problems.
- 4) I provided a paragraph that discusses ways of addressing the problem

WRITING

- 1) Each paragraph is focused (i.e. it is focused around the development of a main point).
- 2) I have checked each sentence for grammatical errors.
- 3) I have run the spell-checker.
- 4) I have checked for punctuation errors.
- 5) I have asked someone to proof-read my paper.
- 6) The font of this paper is Time New Roman 12.
- 7) This paragraphs are 1.5 spaced.
- 8) I have included page numbers.
- 9) Margins are 2cm on every side.

CITATION

- 1) all statistics are referenced.
- 2) If I refer to someone's work, the author really said everything that I say s/he says, and I know this because I have found the place in the text where the author says it.
- 3) All quotes are accompanied by the correct reference information.
- 4) I have doubled checked the context of all my quotes to make sure that the author really meant what it sounds like (i.e., I have not taking the author out of context and so distorting or misrepresenting his or her actual point).
- 5) The reference list is complete and accurate.
- 6) I used the ASA, APA or Harvard style guide for citations.