

Description

You will write an exploratory research paper about your experience as an outsider within a Purdue community. As an outsider, you will have the opportunity to form an objective analysis of a social group that is different than your own. While you may be confronted with your own feelings of not belonging in this group, this paper is an opportunity to explore differences in race, culture, education, upbringing, and/or political background. Your paper should consider the following questions:

- 1) How does this group function? Objectively describe its structure and operations. **Use visual detail from your observations.**
- 2) Who seem to be the leaders in this group and why? How does one become a respected group member? **Use observation first, then interviews.**
- 3) What are the incentives for members to conform to the group's expectations? **Use observation first, then interviews.**
- 4) What factors have led these individuals to join this social group? **Use interviews.**
- 5) Where is this group represented on a larger scale, outside of Purdue? What is its function? **Use interviews and research.**
- 6) What have I learned about my social group based on this experience? Similarities? Differences? Dig into race, culture, education, upbringing, and/or political background. **Use personal experience and research.**

Objectives

Your paper should begin with a descriptive paragraph, followed by a clearly stated introduction to your topic and a thesis statement, and well-researched support for your opinions on this group. One way to approach this paper is to follow a series of questions, answering each question with observation, interviews and research, and then moving onto the next question. **Use the writing style in Jonathan Kozol's Savage Inequalities as a model.** You will use the research to answer the questions you have asked, so the paper is exploratory, leading to critical analysis.

Deliverables

- List a description of your top three social groups. **Tuesday, October 20th.**
 - Outsider Paper (with MLA-style in-text citations and Works Cited)
- Rough Draft Due (1000 words): **Tuesday, November 10th** (5%) – Upload to Blog
Final Draft Due: (1500-2000 words): **Monday, December 7th** (15%) – In Class

Grading

The Outsider Paper will be worth 20% of your grade.

Evaluation

The successful Outsider Paper will:

- Include descriptive and objective observations of the group
- Include interviews of at least 3 people in the group
- Include well-researched support of the author's opinions: at least 3 sources
- Cite sources in MLA format in the paper and on a Works Cited page
- Follow an exploratory format, based on Jonathan Kozol's Savage Inequalities