

# SOCIOLOGY – PROVE YOUR PASSION

Below are some ideas for you to consider if you want to enhance your studies in Sociology and wish to demonstrate your commitment.

## **Reading List** (There are many other for you to choose from)

- The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference by M Gladwell (Active government)
- Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth and Happiness by R Thaler (Social policy interventions)
- Oliver Twist (1838) (1954) by Charles Dickens (Childhood: a social construction)
- Love in the Time of Cholera (1985) by Gabriel García Márquez (Culture)
- Wild Swans (1992) by Jung Chang (Culture)
- Anna Karenina (1877) by Leo Tolstoy (Marriage & community)
- Lolita (1955) by Vladimir Nabokov (Marriage & community)
- Pride and Prejudice (1813) by Jane Austen (Marriage & community)
- We Need to Talk About Kevin (2003) by Lionel Shriver
- To Kill a Mockingbird (1960) by Harper Lee (Racism)
- The Colour Purple (1982) by Alice Walker (Racism)
- The Grapes of Wrath (1938) by John Steinbeck (Social division)
- One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (1962) by Ken Kesey (Institutionalization)
- The Handmaid's Tale (1985) by Margaret Atwood (Utopia)

## **Trips and Visits**

- Try to attend trips, e.g. The Crime Conference, to see university style lectures.
- Try to attend theatre productions with a Sociological reference, e.g. Les Miserables, Blood Brothers.

## **Social Involvement**

- Are there issues you feel strongly about? Do you want to change the world? Many sociologists do! Join or start a club or pressure group such as Greenpeace or Amnesty International.
- Become involved with a local or national charity.
- Volunteer at the local hospital or Youth Club.

## **Debating Skills**

- Get involved in the debating matters competition to hone your analytical skills.

## **Lectures**

- Go to [www.ted.com](http://www.ted.com) and put Sociology into the search engine. Listen to some of these lectures on topics of current interest and make reference to it in your application or interviews.

## **Competitions**

- Enter competitions, e.g. essay writing competitions on Sociological topics (look out for posters).

## **Magazines**

- Subscribe to Sociology Review magazine (Philip Allan Publishers) to keep up to date with current Sociological issues. (See Mrs Fenner to find out about reduced subscriptions.)

## **News / Radio 4 / Newspaper**

- Regularly watch the news and look out for related programmes on Radio 4 as issues related to Sociology are constantly changing and you need your knowledge to be fresh.
- Read quality newspapers and keep a record of relevant articles which you can analyse from a Sociological perspective.

## **Film / TV**

- Look out for documentaries related to your subject choice, e.g. Panorama and Horizon.

Watch some of these films listed below and analyse for Sociological content/messages; perhaps write a review from a Sociological perspective.

- Crash (Social Class / Ethnicity)
- Boyz N the Hood (Education, Race and Crime)
- The Shawshank Redemption (Crime and Punishment / Institutionalisation)
- The Handmaid's Tale (Utopia, Gender)
- Philadelphia (Family, Sexuality, HIV)
- Dangerous Minds (Education and Crime)
- Dead Poet's Society (Education)
- Dogma (Belief / Religion)
- The Magdalene Sisters (Religion, Power and Control)
- To Kill A Mockingbird (Race)
- The Color Purple (Ethnicity)
- 12 Angry Men (Criminal Justice System)
- Unforgiven (Criminal Justice System)
- Pulp Fiction (Criminal Justice System)
- American History X (Prejudice, Discrimination, Attitudes)