

SOC 210: DEVELOPING A FOCUS

CONTROLLING IDEAS AND FOCUS STATEMENTS

HABILIDADES (SKILLS)

- Developing a common thread
- Summarizing empirical research
- Crafting a focus statement

TAREA (ASSIGNMENT)

Developing an Overarching Idea and Focus Statement

1. Download this document. Save the document in your class folder and working within the same document, describe the most compelling findings of your research and why you believe they are valuable for us to understand. Do this in 2-3 sentences.

2. How are your findings different from the general assumptions **you** had about your research site, community, issue, or place when you started the semester? How are your findings different from what **most other people** assume about your research site, community, issue, or place?

3. How does what you are seeing stand out from or align with material you have found in your secondary source research?

4. Put those three things together to craft an overarching, controlling idea for what you want to explore in your researched ethnographic essay. Here is a template you can work from. You

don't have to use it exactly but it can help you identify what it is you think your research has to offer:

Many people assume _____ when they think about _____, but through my ethnographic research in/at/about _____, I have come to understand _____.

5. Now build on that "what you have come to understand" to craft a focus statement.

"In this essay, I will explore/discuss/analyze/reveal _____."

And break that into three sections: "First, I will _____" "Second, I will _____" "Third I will _____"

This is your overarching idea and focus statement. Now, on the second page of this handout, think about how you imagine providing an "opening" for this focus. Is there a particular moment in your research that you might be able to describe to your readers to introduce them to your topic? What is it? What happened? How will you transition from this "snapshot" to your focus statement? Once you have thought about this, write out a preliminary introduction.

Also, think carefully about how your primary and secondary research fits into the three sections of your essay. You'll want to have a standalone literature review following your introduction section but you'll likely also include citations to existing research in other sections of your essay. Begin to think about this by mapping out where you will include these citations.

EVALUACIÓN (ASSESSMENT)

- Answers questions 1-5: 60%
- Develops a preliminary introduction paragraph: 20%
- Maps out citations: 20%