Sociology 315
Final Exam
Spring 2012

The purpose of meaningful sociological research is to locate problems in society, identify those factors that influence said problems, and finally, recommend policy solutions to improve the situation. With that in mind, for your final exam I would like you to imagine that you are a U.S. Senator that has been assigned to a special committee on education reform. For the last four months you have read through countless briefs recounting the state of education in the U.S. In previous deliberations, the committee has come to the conclusion that the U.S. education system is antiquated and in need of drastic reform. In a matter of days, you must turn in a final report to the committee. Although there are many factors that you could discuss, the head of the committee has asked that you keep your report to a two page limit (single spaced). Moreover, she has requested that your report focus on a basic question: What steps should the U.S. government take to reform education in order to better prepare workers for the 21st century? In preparation for your report, she has asked that you watch the following video: http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/en/ken_robinson_changing_education_paradigms.html. Your report should give a brief review of the basic problems facing education today but *your focus* should be on what steps should be taken by the government to improve education in the future. Please turn in your report to MCD 386 by Wednesday, May 9th at 5pm. You may turn in your report early but late reports will not be considered.

Criteria to keep in mind:

- Two page limit (single spaced). Anything over two-pages will not be read.
- Given the page limit, you will need to use very concise, to-the-point language. (Try to avoid meaningless phrases and analogies.)
- Concise writing requires careful planning. With that in mind, map out your main points *before* you start writing!
- Cite your sources with in-text citations. (Author Date: page.)
- Include a bibliography. (Does not count towards page total.)
- Edit your report multiple times! (There is little tolerance for grammar and punctuation errors within the U.S. Senate!)
- Turn in a physical copy of your report on or prior to the deadline. Late reports will not be accepted!