

what is sociology in high school

what is sociology in high school introduces students to the foundational study of society, human relationships, and group behavior. This article explores what sociology in high school means, why it is important, and what students can expect from a sociology course. Readers will discover the curriculum topics, learning objectives, skills developed, and career relevance. Key concepts such as social norms, institutions, culture, and social change will be clearly explained. Whether you are a high school student, educator, or parent, this guide offers a thorough overview to help you understand the value and scope of sociology in secondary education. The sections below break down the essentials, from course structure to real-world applications, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of sociology as an academic discipline in high school settings.

- Overview of Sociology in High School
- Key Concepts and Topics
- Learning Objectives and Skills Developed
- Benefits of Studying Sociology in High School
- Typical Curriculum Structure
- Real-World Applications of Sociology
- Career Relevance and Future Pathways

Overview of Sociology in High School

Sociology in high school is an introductory academic course that focuses on the scientific study of society, social behavior, and human interaction. The discipline encourages students to critically analyze how societies function, the influence of social institutions, and the complexities of social relationships. Through engaging activities and discussions, students learn to observe and interpret patterns of behavior among individuals and groups. Sociology fosters an understanding of diversity, social justice, and the impact of culture and history on current social issues. High school sociology courses provide students with the opportunity to develop analytical skills, broaden their perspectives, and prepare for further study in social sciences. By exploring theories and real-world examples, students gain foundational knowledge that is applicable both inside and outside the classroom.

Key Concepts and Topics in High School Sociology

High school sociology introduces learners to a wide range of core concepts that form the backbone of the discipline. These concepts help students understand the structure and dynamics of societies as well as the factors that shape individual and collective experiences.

Social Norms and Values

Social norms are the unwritten rules that govern behavior within a group or society. Values represent the collective beliefs about what is right and wrong. High school sociology explores how norms and values influence individuals, maintain social order, and change over time.

Social Institutions

Social institutions refer to organized systems that fulfill societal needs, such as family, education, religion, and government. Students examine how these institutions shape behavior, contribute to stability, and respond to social change.

Culture and Subculture

Culture encompasses the shared beliefs, customs, practices, and artifacts of a group. Subcultures are groups within a larger culture that have distinct values or practices. Sociology courses help students analyze cultural differences and the role of culture in shaping identity.

Socialization

Socialization is the lifelong process by which individuals learn and internalize the norms, values, and behaviors appropriate to their society. High school courses investigate how family, peers, media, and institutions contribute to socialization.

Social Stratification

- Class

- Race and ethnicity
- Gender
- Age
- Socioeconomic status

Social stratification involves the ranking of individuals and groups in a hierarchy based on factors like wealth, power, and prestige. Students learn about inequality, social mobility, and the impact of stratification on life chances.

Social Change and Movements

Sociology examines how societies evolve through social movements, technological advancements, and cultural shifts. High school students explore historical and contemporary examples of social change and the role of activism.

Learning Objectives and Skills Developed

Sociology in high school is designed to achieve specific learning objectives that foster intellectual and personal growth. These objectives guide the teaching and assessment of the course, ensuring students acquire valuable knowledge and skills.

Critical Thinking

Students develop critical thinking skills by evaluating evidence, questioning assumptions, and analyzing complex social phenomena. These skills are essential for academic success and informed citizenship.

Research and Analysis

Learners gain experience in sociological research methods, such as surveys, interviews, and observation. They learn to collect, interpret, and present data, enhancing their analytical abilities.

Communication

- Writing clear reports and essays
- Presenting findings
- Participating in discussions
- Debating social issues

Effective communication is emphasized through writing assignments, presentations, and group projects. Students practice articulating ideas and arguments about social topics.

Empathy and Cultural Awareness

Sociology encourages empathy by helping students understand diverse perspectives and experiences. Cultural awareness is fostered through the study of global societies and multiculturalism.

Benefits of Studying Sociology in High School

Taking sociology in high school offers numerous academic and personal benefits. The discipline prepares students for college-level social sciences and equips them with skills relevant to everyday life.

- Broadens understanding of social issues and current events
- Encourages ethical reasoning and social responsibility
- Promotes respect for diversity and inclusion
- Improves problem-solving and decision-making skills
- Supports preparation for careers in education, law, social work, and public policy

Studying sociology cultivates informed, engaged citizens who are better equipped to contribute positively to society.

Typical High School Sociology Curriculum Structure

A high school sociology curriculum is structured to provide a comprehensive overview of the field while allowing for exploration of specific topics. The course may be offered as a semester or year-long elective, depending on the school.

Course Outline

- Introduction to Sociology
- Research Methods
- Cultural Studies
- Socialization Processes
- Social Institutions
- Social Stratification and Inequality
- Social Change and Movements
- Contemporary Social Issues

Teachers use textbooks, case studies, documentaries, and interactive projects to engage students. Assessments include quizzes, writing assignments, presentations, and group work.

Classroom Activities

- Group discussions on social topics
- Role-playing and simulations
- Conducting surveys and interviews
- Analysis of media and current events
- Community research projects

These activities help students apply sociological concepts and develop practical skills.

Real-World Applications of Sociology in High School

Sociology provides students with tools to understand and address real-world challenges. The discipline encourages active engagement with social issues and promotes solutions-oriented thinking.

Understanding Social Problems

Students learn to analyze topics such as poverty, discrimination, crime, and mental health through a sociological lens. This knowledge supports informed decision-making and social advocacy.

Building Community and Citizenship

Sociology enhances students' ability to collaborate, resolve conflicts, and participate in community service. These experiences foster responsible citizenship and leadership.

Preparation for Future Studies and Careers

High school sociology lays the groundwork for continued study in fields like psychology, anthropology, political science, and social work. It also provides a foundation for careers that require understanding of human behavior and society.

Career Relevance and Future Pathways

Studying sociology in high school opens doors to diverse career and educational opportunities. The analytical and communication skills acquired are valuable in many professions.

- Social work and counseling
- Education and teaching

- Healthcare and public health
- Law and criminal justice
- Business and human resources
- Government and public policy
- Non-profit and advocacy organizations

High school sociology also prepares students for higher education in social sciences, where they can specialize and pursue advanced degrees.

Trending and Relevant Questions & Answers About What Is Sociology in High School

Q: What is sociology in high school and why is it important?

A: Sociology in high school is the study of human society, social behavior, and group interactions. It is important because it helps students understand social norms, diversity, inequality, and prepares them for informed citizenship and future careers.

Q: Which topics are usually covered in a high school sociology class?

A: Typical topics include social norms, culture, socialization, social institutions, social stratification, social change, and contemporary social issues like discrimination and poverty.

Q: What skills can students develop by taking sociology in high school?

A: Students develop critical thinking, analytical research, effective communication, empathy, and cultural awareness, all of which are valuable for academic and personal growth.

Q: How does sociology in high school prepare

students for college?

A: Sociology introduces foundational concepts in the social sciences, helps students build research and analytical skills, and encourages broad thinking, all of which are beneficial for college-level coursework.

Q: Are there career benefits to studying sociology in high school?

A: Yes, sociology provides relevant skills for careers in social work, education, law, public health, government, business, and advocacy, among others.

Q: Is sociology in high school suitable for all students?

A: Sociology is suitable for any student interested in understanding society, human behavior, and social issues. It is especially beneficial for those considering careers in social sciences, education, or public service.

Q: What teaching methods are used in high school sociology classes?

A: Teaching methods include lectures, group discussions, projects, role-playing, surveys, interviews, and analysis of media and current events.

Q: How is student performance assessed in high school sociology?

A: Assessments typically involve quizzes, essays, presentations, group projects, and participation in class discussions.

Q: Can sociology in high school help students become better citizens?

A: Yes, sociology fosters social responsibility, ethical reasoning, and community engagement, helping students become more informed and active citizens.

Q: What is the difference between sociology and psychology in high school?

A: Sociology focuses on groups, social structures, and societal patterns,

while psychology centers on individual behavior and mental processes. Both are important but address different aspects of human experience.

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What is Sociology in High School? Understanding the Social World Around You

Ever wondered why people act the way they do? Why certain social trends emerge, and how societies change over time? If you're curious about the dynamics of human interaction and the forces shaping our world, then high school sociology might be the perfect fit for you. This post will delve into what sociology is, what you can expect to learn in a high school sociology course, and why it's a valuable subject to study. We'll explore the key concepts, common topics, and the benefits of understanding this fascinating field.

What is Sociology? A High School Perspective

Sociology, at its core, is the scientific study of society, human social behavior, patterns of social relationships, social interaction, and aspects of culture associated with everyday life. In high school, you won't be tackling complex theoretical frameworks at the university level. Instead, the focus will be on developing a foundational understanding of sociological concepts and applying them to real-world situations. Think of it as learning a new lens through which to view the world – one that helps you understand the "why" behind social phenomena.

Key Concepts Explored in High School Sociology

High school sociology courses typically introduce key sociological concepts that are both engaging and relevant to students' lives. These include:

Social Structures:

This explores how society is organized – from families and schools to governments and global

institutions. You'll learn about social hierarchies, social inequality, and how these structures impact individual lives.

Socialization:

This examines how individuals learn and internalize the norms, values, and beliefs of their society. You'll explore the roles of family, peers, media, and education in shaping our identities and behaviors.

Culture and Subculture:

This delves into the shared beliefs, values, customs, behaviors, and artifacts that characterize a group or society. You'll learn about cultural diversity, cultural change, and the impact of subcultures on mainstream society.

Social Change:

This examines the processes through which societies transform over time. You'll explore factors driving social change, such as technological advancements, social movements, and political revolutions.

Social Inequality:

This focuses on the unequal distribution of resources, opportunities, and power within a society. You'll examine issues like poverty, discrimination, and social stratification.

Typical Topics Covered in a High School Sociology Course

The specific topics covered can vary depending on the curriculum and teacher, but common themes include:

Family and Kinship: Exploring different family structures, family dynamics, and the social functions of family.

Education: Examining the role of education in socialization, social mobility, and social inequality.

Deviance and Social Control: Exploring what constitutes deviance, different theories of deviance, and how society attempts to control it.

Social Stratification: Analyzing social class, race, gender, and other forms of social inequality.

Social Movements: Investigating the causes, dynamics, and impacts of social movements throughout history.

Globalization: Examining the interconnectedness of nations and the impact of globalization on societies worldwide.

Why Study Sociology in High School? The Benefits

Studying sociology in high school offers numerous benefits beyond simply earning a credit. It:

Enhances critical thinking skills: Sociology encourages you to analyze social issues, question

assumptions, and develop your own informed opinions.

Improves research and analytical skills: You'll learn how to gather, analyze, and interpret data, skills valuable in many fields.

Promotes empathy and understanding: Sociology helps you understand different perspectives and appreciate the diversity of human experience.

Prepares you for higher education: A strong foundation in sociology can be advantageous if you pursue further studies in sociology, social sciences, or related fields.

Increases civic engagement: Understanding social issues better equips you to become an informed and engaged citizen.

Conclusion

High school sociology provides a powerful introduction to the fascinating world of social interaction and societal structures. It equips students with critical thinking, research, and analytical skills while fostering empathy and understanding. By exploring key concepts and engaging with relevant real-world issues, you'll develop a deeper understanding of the complexities of the social world around you and your place within it. This knowledge empowers you to become a more informed and engaged citizen, ready to contribute meaningfully to society.

FAQs

1. Is sociology a hard subject? The difficulty level depends on your learning style and prior academic experience. However, high school sociology is generally considered accessible and engaging, especially for those interested in social issues.
2. What kind of assignments can I expect in a high school sociology class? Expect a mix of readings, discussions, essays, research projects, presentations, and possibly some tests or quizzes.
3. Does sociology prepare me for a specific career? While sociology doesn't directly lead to a single career path, the skills it develops (critical thinking, research, analysis) are highly valuable across a range of professions.
4. Is sociology related to psychology? Both sociology and psychology study human behavior, but from different perspectives. Sociology focuses on societal influences, while psychology focuses on individual mental processes.
5. How can I know if sociology is the right subject for me? If you are curious about social issues, enjoy analyzing situations, and are interested in understanding human behavior and societal dynamics, then sociology might be a great fit for you. Consider talking to your guidance counselor or a sociology teacher to learn more.

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twelfth edition's new readings include selections on the unspoken rules of social interaction, the shocking disparities between upper- and lower-class life, America's changing attitudes toward work and family and the roles they fulfill, and the McDonaldisation of American society. Together with these essential new articles, the selections by Peter Berger, Herbert Gans, Erving Goffman, Donna Eder, Zella Luria, C. Wright Mills, Deborah Tannen, Barrie Thorne, Sidney Katz, Philip Zimbardo, and many others provide firsthand reporting that gives students a sense of being there. Henslin also explains basic methods of social research, providing insight into how sociologists explore the social world. The selections in *Down to Earth Sociology* highlight the most significant themes of contemporary sociology, ranging from the sociology of gender, power, politics, sports, and religion, to the contemporary crises of racial tension, crime, rape, poverty, and homelessness.

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what is sociology in high school: *A Discipline Divided* Michael DeCesare, 2007 *A Discipline Divided* brings together the literature on the sociology of sociology and the research on the teaching of sociology to examine the ways in which historical, intellectual, and structural forces shaped the content and objectives of high school sociology courses between 1911 and 2001. Relying on questionnaire and interview data, published descriptions of past high school sociology courses, and current teachers' course materials, Michael DeCesare documents how teachers and sociologists have conceptualized the high school sociology course. On one hand, teachers have consistently taught social problems with an eye toward developing good citizens. On the other hand, sociologists have pushed for scientific sociology in the high school classroom, especially since the 1960s. *A Discipline Divided* points the way toward a new approach to the study of teaching-one that leads away from individualistic explanations for pedagogical decisions and toward an understanding of contextual and structural influences. Concluding with recommendations for bridging the historical gap between sociology teachers and academics, *A Discipline Divided* is a comprehensive and detailed study of the first sociology courses many students encounter, and an essential book for sociologists and education researchers.

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societies. Addressing students' own experience of education before expanding to larger sociological conversations, *Education and Society* helps readers understand and engage with such topics as peer groups, gender and identity, social class, the racialization of achievement, the treatment of immigrant children, special education, school choice, accountability, discipline, global perspectives, and schooling as a social institution. The book prompts students to evaluate how schools organize our society and how society organizes our schools. Moving from students to schooling to social forces, *Education and Society* provides a lively and engaging introduction to theory and research and will serve as a cornerstone for courses such as sociology of education, foundations of education, critical issues in education, and school and society.

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wider audiences—has been one of the most widely discussed topics in the discipline in recent years. The Handbook of Public Sociology presents a comprehensive look at every facet of public sociology in theory and practice. It pays particular attention to how public sociology can complement more traditional types of sociological practice to advance both the analytical power of the discipline and its ability to benefit society. The volume features contributions from a stellar list of authors, including several past presidents of the American Sociological Association such as Michael Burawoy, a leading proponent of public sociology. The first two sections of the Handbook of Public Sociology look at public sociology in relation to the other three types of practice—professional, policy, and critical—with an emphasis on integrating the four types into a holistic model of theory and practice. Subsequent sections focus on issues like teaching public sociology at various levels, case studies in the application of public sociology, and the role of public sociology in special fields in the discipline. The concluding chapter by Michael Burawoy, a past president of the American Sociological Association and a leading proponent of public sociology, addresses current debates surrounding public sociology and presents a constructive vision for the future that embraces and improves upon all four types of sociology. The Handbook of Public Sociology with its examination not only of public sociology but also of how it can enhance and complement other types of practice, transcends differences in the field and will appeal to a wide range of academics, students, and practitioners.

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what is sociology in high school: Schools and Society Jeanne H. Ballantine, Joan Z. Spade, Jenny M. Stuber, 2017-10-25 The authors are proud sponsors of the 2020 SAGE Keith Roberts Teaching Innovations Award—enabling graduate students and early career faculty to attend the annual ASA pre-conference teaching and learning workshop. This comprehensive anthology features classical readings on the sociology of education, as well as current, original essays by notable contemporary scholars. Assigned as a main text or a supplement, this fully updated Sixth Edition uses the open systems approach to provide readers with a framework for understanding and analyzing the book's range of topics. Jeanne H. Ballantine, Joan Z. Spade, and new co-editor Jenny M. Stuber, all experienced researchers and instructors in this subject, have chosen articles that are highly readable, and that represent the field's major theoretical perspectives, methods, and issues. The Sixth Edition includes twenty new selections and five revisions of original readings and features new perspectives on some of the most contested issues in the field today, such as school funding, gender issues in schools, parent and neighborhood influences on learning, growing inequality in schools, and charter schools.

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biographies of key sociologists and social activists that give a historical context to each idea. Your Sociology Questions, Simply Explained This book explores the similar issues that affect us all; the tension between the needs of the individual and society, the changing workplace, and the role of everything from government to mass culture in our lives. If you thought it was difficult to learn about social theory, The Sociology Book presents key information in a clear layout. Learn about issues of equality, diversity, identity, and human rights; the role of institutions; and the rise of urban living in modern society, with fantastic mind maps and step-by-step summaries. The Big Ideas Series With millions of copies sold worldwide, The Sociology Book is part of the award-winning Big Ideas series from DK. The series uses striking graphics along with engaging writing, making big topics easy to understand.

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what is sociology in high school: Sociology Today Arnaud Sales, 2012-08-16 We are living in a turbulent world marked by fast, continuous social changes that affect the lives of individuals, families, communities, organizations, businesses, nation-states, and international networks. This fundamentally commits contemporary sociology to being a science of change. This collection effectively mirrors this diversity and variety of transformations underway in today's societies and transnational spaces. Written by a group of internationally renowned sociologists, it offers a cutting edge understanding of what is happening in our life worlds, work lives and frames of social existence. Bringing up issues such as political turbulence, cultural and artistic dynamics, family changes, gender roles, migration flows and social movements, it is a timely contribution that discusses transformation and globalization and their consequences in both theoretical and substantive terms. Illuminating and comprehensive, this book will be of immense use for sociology students on all levels, as well as lecturers, researchers and others who are interested in social life and the consequences of human action. Arnaud Sales is Emeritus Professor of Sociology at the University of Montreal, Canada.

what is sociology in high school: Professing Sociology Irving Horowitz, 2017-07-05

Professing Sociology was originally published at a time when sociology commanded widespread interest and public funding. Written by one of the leaders of the new sociology of the late sixties, this volume captures the nature and intensity of the field's intellectual foundations and scope. It reveals the field's post-World War II development as a scientific discipline and as a profession, and includes the author's most significant writings on critical trends shaping the field. Irving Louis Horowitz divides the life cycle of sociology into three main sections. The first deals with the inner life of sociology, covering basic theoretical issues uniting and dividing the profession. In a second section, Horowitz shows the institutions and sources from which the struggle of ideas is nourished. A third section shows how political life shapes the inner life of American sociology. Horowitz gives a great deal of attention to international social science, to the relationship of social science to public policy, and to federal projects and grant agencies and their effects on research. Irving Louis Horowitz was undoubtedly influential in shaping his field, and Professing Sociology offers valuable insights into how ideas become part of the fabric of professional life. As the new introduction by Howard G. Schneiderman shows, Professing Sociology provides a clear picture of sociology at the height of its importance.

what is sociology in high school: *Tracking Inequality* Samuel Roundfield Lucas, 1999-01-01 What has happened since formal tracking was dismantled in U.S. high schools? In this provocative book, Samuel Lucas reveals that many unintended consequences actually served to transform and submerge a stubborn system of in-school inequality. Drawing on nationally representative data and highly sophisticated methodologies, Lucas examines how the contemporary curricular structure works, including the scope of the structure, mobility within the structure, how an individual's location in the structure is socially patterned, and the consequences of these locations for a student's college entry and career path. These issues are then skillfully linked to long-standing debates about stratification processes within schools and the relationship between schools and Western societies. Appendixes at the end of the book include detailed information about the author's methods of analyses, providing an excellent model for further research.

what is sociology in high school: *The New Social Studies* Barbara Slater Stern, 2009-11-01 This volume, *The New Social Studies: People, Projects and Perspectives* is not an attempt to be the comprehensive book on the era. Given the sheer number of projects that task would be impossible. However, the current lack of knowledge about the politics, people and projects of the NSS is unfortunate as it often appears that new scholars are reinventing the wheel due to their lack of knowledge about the history of the social studies field. The goal of this book then, is to sample the projects and individuals involved with the New Social Studies (NSS) in an attempt to provide an understanding of what came before and to suggest guidance to those concerned with social studies reform in the future—especially in light of the standardization of curriculum and assessment currently underway in many states. The authors who contributed to this project were recruited with several goals in mind including a broad range of ages, interests and experiences with the NSS from participants during the NSS era through new, young scholars who had never heard much about the NSS. As many of the authors remind us in their chapters, much has been written, of the failure of the NSS. However, in every chapter of this book, the authors also point out the remnants of the projects that remain.

what is sociology in high school: *Proceedings of the High School Conference of November 1910-November 1931*, 1921

what is sociology in high school: *International Handbook of Student Experience in Elementary and Secondary School* D. Thiessen, Alison Cook-Sather, 2007-06-03 This handbook brings together in a single volume the groundbreaking work of scholars who have conducted studies of student experiences of school in Afghanistan, Australia, Canada, England, Ghana, Ireland, Pakistan, and the United States. Drawing extensively on students' interpretations of their experiences in school as expressed in their own words, chapter authors offer insight into how students conceptualize and approach school. The book examines how students understand and address the ongoing social opportunities for and challenges in working with other students and

teachers, and the multiple ways in which students shape and contribute to school improvement.

what is sociology in high school: *Vocational Education* Skylar Bray, 2018-02-26 Vocational education or training which is currently the real demand, is a nebulous term having differing concepts and meanings. These have arisen from traditional practices and the meaning of terms used and their implication. Basic differences for certain practices and relationships in vocational or occupational education are fundamental in nature and programs. Vocational education is education/training of workers. It is the education for manual work. It is education in certain specified subjects, which is craft-oriented. Vocational education is education for productive purposes or socially useful productive work. The present book provides a veritable mine of vital information about the crucial problems and challenges in the field of education. It examines the educational process of all levels. It also presents fruitful strategies for effective education. It will be a highly beneficial reference tool for students, teachers, educators, policy-makers and all the concerned.

what is sociology in high school: *Sociology of Education in Canada*, Karen Robson, 2012-10-03 Sociology of Education in Canada utilizes a contemporary theoretical focus to analyze how education in Canada is affected by pre-existing and persistent inequalities among members of society. It presents the historical and cultural factors that have shaped our current education system, examines the larger social trends that have contributed to present problems, discusses the various interest groups involved, and analyzes the larger social discourses that influence any discussion of these issues. To achieve this, Karen Robson uses many current, topical, and relatable issues in Canadian education to ensure that readers fully comprehend the information being presented and leave with an appreciation of how the sociology of education is inextricably linked to issues of stratification.

what is sociology in high school: *Sociology of Sport* George Harvey Sage, D. Stanley Eitzen, Becky Beal, Matthew Atencio, 2022-10 Now in its twelfth edition, *Sociology of Sport* offers a compact yet comprehensive and integrated perspective on sport in North American society. Bringing a unique viewpoint to the subject, George H. Sage, D. Stanley Eitzen, Becky Beal, and Matthew Atencio analyze and, in turn, demythologize sport. This method promotes an understanding of how a sociological perspective differs from commonsense perceptions about sport and society, helping students to understand sport in a new way--

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what is sociology in high school: *Chicago Schools Journal* , 1926

what is sociology in high school: *Studies in Sociology* Southern California sociological society, Los Angeles, 1916

what is sociology in high school: *Sociology Through Active Learning* Kathleen McKinney, Barbara S. Heyl, 2008-07-10 A great source for kinesthetic learning activities. I've used the book for designing my course for multiple learning styles. —Megan Thiele, University of California, Irvine This student workbook is designed to allow you to easily integrate multiple active learning exercises into your Introduction to Sociology courses. Many teachers want to use active learning in their class, but don't have the materials commensurate with that pedagogy. These 51 active learning exercises have been carefully selected from a nationwide search of the best class-tested active learning material available in sociology. Affordably priced, this workbook provides the best that sociology has to offer! Key and New Features Offers many fresh exercises—about 40% of the assignments are new to this edition Features tear-out worksheets for ease of submission and grading Presents a wide variety of exercises in terms of content, time required, usefulness for individual or group completion, and relevance for in-class or out-of-class practice Accompanied by High-Quality Ancillaries! Instructor Resources on CD provide detailed information on using, grading, and adapting the exercises. In addition the CD also includes commentary from the contributing authors explaining their experiences with the exercises, including how they promote specific learning goals and how current instructions to students facilitate the assignment. This CD-ROM features new components to the summary chart for instructors that indicate which assignments have web components, which have global aspects, and other criteria to help professors select the most useful exercises for their

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