

Analyzing Social Inequalities: Perspectives and Applications

Sociology lesson using *Global Issues (Gale In Context)*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This project guides Sociology students to understand areas of social inequality, explore diverse global perspectives, and reflect on the issues through sociological lenses. The in-class activity asks students to explore issues of social inequalities in today's world. The assignment culminates in the submission of a written response to comprehension questions and the application of sociology theory to an issue of their choice.

The project is designed to take one or two class periods (approx. 75-120 minutes total) plus an assignment. Feel free to adapt this project to fit the needs of your coursework, whether taught in person or online.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Gain knowledge about issues of social inequality
- Engage in comparative sociological analysis, and practice critical thinking skills
- Apply the theoretical framework of Durkheim, Marx, and Weber in the context of social inequalities

BRIDGE-IN:

This project should be introduced after students have learned the basics of sociological theory regarding Emile Durkheim, Karl Marx, and Max Weber. This project would serve as a strong introduction to the causes and consequences of social inequalities.

DATABASE FAMILIARIZATION:

[*Global Issues \(Gale In Context\)*](#) is a valuable resource for Sociology courses, providing comprehensive coverage of social issues from global perspectives. It offers authoritative articles, academic journals, news sources, and multimedia content, facilitating interdisciplinary exploration. By utilizing *Global Issues*, students can engage with current and relevant information, gaining understanding of contemporary social issues, and then apply the foundational theories and concepts developed by influential sociologists such as Durkheim, Marx, and Weber. Overall, this resource enhances the academic value of Sociology courses by offering comprehensive, international coverage of social issues, and opportunities for comparative analysis, critical thinking, and research.

Because this lesson uses *Global Issues*, familiarize yourself with it using your choice of these tools:

- [Ten-minute tutorial](#)
- [Three-page overview](#)
- [90-second intro to Topic Pages](#)

If you want to arrange a virtual session with a Gale trainer—for you or for your class—email gale.academicoutreach@cengage.com at least one week in advance.

Connect with your institution's library, if needed, for guidance in how to access *Global Issues*.

TEACHING PLAN:

- (10-20 minutes) Using your preferred instructional method, introduce or review the topic of Social Inequalities and various types of social inequalities.
- (65-90 minutes) Work through the [In-Class Project with your students](#).
 - Instructor will guide class in learning about Women's Property Rights as an example of social inequality. The instructor-led demonstration and activities mirrors the assignment that students will complete outside of class.
- [Distribute the Student Assignment Sheet](#). Specify due date and any additional instructions.
 - Students will choose an issue related to Social Inequality, which they will research using *Global Issues*. They will offer self-reflections, and compare global viewpoints on the selected issue. Then they will examine it through the lens of Durkheim, Marx, or Weber.
- Provide guidance and reteach concepts, as necessary, after evaluating students' assignments.

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT:

Student participation during in-class activity:

- (optional) Class discussion on Critical Thinking Questions from Women's Property Rights overview
- Discussion on how Durkheim, Marx, and Weber might view Women's Property Rights

During in-class activity, student's submission of:

- Reflection on a Critical Thinking Question from Women's Property Rights overview article
- Reflection on a Viewpoint article from Women's Property Rights topic

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT:

Student's submission of a document that:

- Demonstrates critical thinking skills on a topic related to social inequality
- Summarizes viewpoints from two different countries, with self-reflection
- Examines a topic of social inequality through the lens of Durkheim, Marx, or Weber