

Sociology 438: Problems in Criminal Law (Fall, 2011)

Further Instructions for Part 1

Part 1: Introducing the legal issue that you are analyzing

The purpose of part 1 is to introduce the legal topic that you are analyzing. This necessarily involves summarizing a considerable amount of information in a concise and logical fashion. So this first paper is largely a review of the legal literature on your topic.

Start with one or more introductory paragraphs clearly stating what you are studying. You will need to define the issue thoroughly. Use legal dictionaries and legal encyclopedias as needed. Note that the definition of a word or phrase in the law may not necessarily correspond to its standard dictionary definition.

This paper should also include a brief history of how the issue has been viewed down through the years under U.S. law. At what point in time did this issue come to the forefront? Has there been an evolution in legal thinking about this issue over time. Law review articles are likely to be the best source of this kind of information. You also may find books on your topic.

Set the stage for parts 2, 3, and 4 of the assignment by explaining why this is a significant and controversial topic. Mention the various points of contention associated with the issue. What makes it controversial?

As with all of the parts of the paper, part 1 should make proper use of the ASA referencing and citation system. Refer to the earlier handout.

Part 1 of the writing assignment is due September 27th and should be about 4 pages in length. Part 1 is worth 25 points and 2.5 points will be deducted for each day late.

I, along with the kind people at the UM Writing Center are ready, willing, and able to assist you in completing all phases of this assignment. You have been provided with information as to how to contact us. Please do not hesitate to seek our assistance.