AI Assignment Library   Schools, Colleges, and Departments

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Explaining Crime in a US City

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Recommended Citation

CJ 330 – High Crime City Paper Activity

35 points

Purpose: Using this worksheet, you will start to learn about your assigned city for the final presentation. This assignment will allow the professor to provide feedback early in the process. All rates will be double checked by the professor to make sure you're on the right track. Please make sure to review feedback after the assignment has been graded.

Skills: This assignment will help students:

- Develop data literacy, learn to read, interpret, and work with various types of numerical and statistical information
- Become adept at navigating various databases, both public and academic, to find relevant crime and city data
- Learn to interpret crime statistics accurately, understand their implications and limitations

Part I Directions: Review the lecture for the week prior to completing this activity. For question 1-6, use NIBRS (National Incident-Based Reporting System) and other official sources to provide data rates. Note where the data came from so it can be double-checked (ex. Bureau of Justice Statistics).

1. City:
2. National crime rates (3 pts):
   a. Persons:
   b. Property:
   c. Overall:
3. Crime rates for your city (3 pts):
   a. Persons:
   b. Property:
   c. Overall:
4. What is the **unemployment rate** in your city? (2 pts)
5. What is the rate of people who **live in poverty?** (2 pts)

Part 2 Direction: For questions 7-10, you are *encouraged* to use **AI software (such as Claude 3 or ChatGPT)** to guide your answers. **10 points of this assignment is providing the AI output.** For each question, feel free to get ideas and guidance from AI. AI will **not** count as a source but is only to help you brainstorm. You are expected to go find a source for the data. This will be non-academic data, such as a local news station website or local newspaper. Academic sources do not generally cover local issues. Please provide a link for each issue.

1. What is the main local newspaper and/or in your city? (2 pts)
2. What types of crime issues appear to be most affecting your city (over the last 1-6 months)? List at least three and support the issues with a link from a news source. (4 pts)

3. What other **non-crime** issues appear to be facing your city? List at least three. (4 pts)

4. What **macro-level** theory do you think best explains crime here? Why? 4-6 detailed sentences per theory. *(AI can help you brainstorm, but the text should be your own original thoughts and words. Feel free to list 1-3 theories if you would like help narrowing it down – 5 pts)*

5. Attach the AI output from your conversation as a separate document. How to do this will vary depending on the software you are using. The way that will usually work is to highlight the entire conversation, copy, paste into a Word document, then upload that file. For more ideas, ask the AI what works best! **10 points.**

CJ 330 – Presentation Sources Activity

30 points

Purpose: Students will begin gathering academic sources for their final presentation on a high crime city. This assignment will allow the professor to make sure the student has appropriate peer-reviewed, academic sources, and that these will be properly cited in the final presentation. Please make sure to review feedback after the assignment has been graded.

Skills: This assignment will help students:

- Locate peer-reviewed, academic sources prior to their final presentation being due
- Use peer-reviewed, academic sources to link real-city issues to a criminological theory
- Demonstrate proper APA citations both for a reference page and in-text

Directions: Students are allowed to use AI in their initial search for academic sources, *but it is not required.* Using feedback on your previous presentation activity, choose the three arguments you will be making to link your chosen theory to your high-crime city. For example, you may ask "Provide 5 academic articles linking self-control to violent offending." Search for these articles through Google Scholar or the UND library and review the abstracts to see if they will work for your argument. If you do not have access, you can request the article through UND Library's interlibrary loan. It's super easy and pretty fast! You have time. *Note: Try to find articles published in the last 20 years.*

What to turn in: For each argument (1) briefly state the argument, (2) provide one academic source, cited in APA, (3) provide an in-text citation for that source, (4) copy and paste the abstract. Lastly, if you used AI, submit the AI output. 10 points per argument.
WARNING: SOMETIMES SOURCES ARE FAKE. Do not use fake sources.

Example of false information given by AI:

1. My argument: Self-control leads to increased violent crime.
2. Source given by AI: Pratt, T. C., & Cullen, F. T. (2000). Self-control theory and violent offending: An examination of the core propositions. *Journal of Criminal Justice, 28*(2), 129-141.
3. In-text cite: (Pratt & Cullen, 2000)
4. Abstract: **THIS WAS A FAKE SOURCE! I searched the name on Google Scholar and UND library, nothing. I went to the Journal of Criminal Justice website, volume 28, issue 2, and there was an entirely different article in those pages. Beware!**

CJ 330 – Crime Theory and City Presentation
50 points

Purpose: Develop a deeper understanding of how various criminological theories can be applied to real-world crime situations. This assignment helps students bridge the gap between abstract theoretical concepts and concrete criminal phenomena.

 Skills: This assignment will allow students to:

- Demonstrate comprehension of criminological theories by applying them to specific crime scenarios or trends.
- Enhance critical thinking skills by analyzing which theories best explain certain types of criminal behavior or patterns.
- Develop writing and argumentation skills by constructing clear, evidence-based explanations of how theories relate to actual criminal activity.

Area	Points	Description
Information Presented	15	Student included all necessary information on their theory and town to create a clear link between the two. At least three clear and detailed points connect the town and theory.
Organization	10	Presentation is well-organized with a clear introduction of the presentation and conclusion**.**
References and Citations	5	In-text citations were used throughout the presentation. These were properly cited and on a reference slide using proper APA format.
Spelling, Grammar, Formatting	10	Spelling/grammar errors are very limited. It is evident that the student proofread the presentation. Presentation is formatted according to the syllabus and designed to increase interest. Information is not copy and pasted into slides from other sources (this is plagiarism).
Presentation Style	10	Student(s) clearly practiced their presentation before hand. They did not read the entire presentation off of notes or the actual slides. Good eye contact. Clear speaking voice. Stayed between 6-8 minutes.
TOTAL	50	

Presentation Formatting:
- 6–8-minute presentation
- Must use a visual aid (PowerPoint, Prezi, Canva, etc.) and recorded presentation. Cameras are optional, but *highly encouraged*
- **At least 3 academic sources** + **official crime statistics** (NIBRS mainly but can also use NCVS or others if appropriate)
- In-text citations should appear in the slides
    - Final slide should include list of references in APA