**SSC 235: Sociology of Culture**

**Table Topics Assignment**

**Overview:**

During the first week of class, you will sign up for Table Topics days. You are responsible for finding an interesting topic or current event in the news that connects to the course content in some way. You will summarize the event (2-3 minutes) and then lead the class in a discussion on your topic/event. You should be prepared with questions for the group in order to lead the discussion. Class discussion should be 5-7 minutes. The purpose of this activity is to become more comfortable with public speaking, as well as connecting the course content to real life events. You will also write a 2-3 page paper summarizing the two articles, explaining how this relates to the text for the week, and giving your opinion on the matter.

**Table Topics Grading Rubric**

**Table Topic: Student:**

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|  | **Assessment** | **Comments** |
| **Selection of Table Topic (Current Event)**: Engaging event explored from courseperspective | Exceptional -5ptsAverage -3ptsUndeveloped -0pts |  |
| **Overview**: Summarize event (no more than 1-2 minutes). Uses an introduction that grabs the class’ attention. | Exceptional -10ptsAverage -5ptsUndeveloped -0pts |  |
| **Material Connected to Class Content:** Raises insightful questions or relevant points that demonstrate student considered the event from multiple perspectives | Exceptional -5ptsAverage -3ptsUndeveloped -0pts |  |
| **Class Discussion:** Student facilitates class engagement in the discussion/analysis of the event. Student is able to respond to class comments/questions or facilitates the class in responding. Student selects appropriate/ innovative ways to engage the class in the topic. | Exceptional -10ptsAverage -5ptsUndeveloped -0pts |  |
| **Paper:** Student summarizes two articles briefly, explains the connection to class, and gives their opinion. All material is cited in APA format.  | Exceptional -20ptsAverage -10ptsUndeveloped -0pts |  |
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