

SOLO: Designing Research Time

Name : _____

For this lab assignment, choose a topic of sociological relevance that you would be interested in studying, and that varies across time. This does *not* have to be in any way related to class research project, although surveys may be the easiest way to answer the questions.

1. Topical Design: Identify answers to these issues (in this order, which makes sense for most research), making use of options given in lecture. Do *not* just make up a purpose, for example; there are 3 (5?) choices!.

- a. Dependent variable: _____
- b. Purpose of study: _____
- c. Population: _____
- d. Unit of analysis: _____
- e. Method of Observation _____

2. Temporal Designs: Imagine that you want to understand how this issue change across time. *Who would be observed* - and how, in terms of time - for each of the four major temporal designs?

- a. Cross-sectional study
- b. Trend study
- c. Panel study
- d. Cohort study

3. Ethical Design: Listed below are five potential harms Babbie mentions in the reading for a coming lecture, with the number and letter of the relevant passage in the Code of Ethics of the American Sociological Association. (The text includes the shorter AAPOR code. The ASA's is online at www.asanet.org – look for Ethics under About ASA on the left, or click directly here: <http://www.asanet.org/images/asa/docs/pdf/CodeofEthics.pdf>) Skim or search for references to these ideas and say whether whether your study (as described above) would be problematic because of it; if it would be, say why. (Note: These are in order of planning, not of appearance.)

- a. Topical Expertise
- b. No Harm to Subjects
- c. Assurance that Participation is Voluntary
- d. Informed Consent when researching students
- e. Maintain Confidentiality of private information