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English Composition I
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Revision
Sociology—Definition Essay

This semester I am studying Sociology. The first question that someone would ask is: “What is Sociology?” Henry Tischler defines Sociology as:

“... the scientific study of human society and social interactions. As sociologists, our main goal is to *understand* social situations and look for repeating patterns in society. The main focus of sociology is the group, not the individual. Sociologists attempt to understand the forces that operate throughout society—forces that mold individuals, shape their behavior and thus determine social events. (6)

Sociology asks you to extend your views about the world. You start to understand that the reason people act differently is because they have different ways of understanding reality—as a result, they experience different lifestyles.

I find Sociology a very interesting social science, because it makes me look at the world from a different perspective. You learn to interpret social events not from your individual experiences, but as an outsider. For example, friendships are influenced by the fact that we share the same social values and we have the same educational background. The fact that our families approve of our friendships is also important.

Sociology, as a science, makes you look at the world objectively. You have to be specific, and you have to prove your point of view. Using common sense to interpret events is not a very good idea. Our “expectations are not always reliable, or accurate because without further investigation, we tend to believe what we want to believe, to see what we want to see, and to accept as fact whatever appears to be logical” (7). If you want to have a better understanding of human interactions, you should always ask why and under what conditions events take place. This is another great thing that Sociology teaches us: **We have to investigate further than the first impression, even when something makes sense.**

Sociology has its own area of investigation, but it also overlaps with so many other social sciences: Cultural Anthropology—the science most closely related to Sociology—Psychology, Economics, History and Social Work.

As a sociologist, you will participate in interesting research studies that will give you a better understanding about society. You will also learn how sociological knowledge can improve society. You will understand how society is organized and the characteristics of groups in society. You will also be able to describe the social stratifications and the characteristics of social classes. You will have a better understanding of the American culture, including the behavior between and among individuals.

For me, more than anything else, Sociology is the experience of looking at the world through the eyes of a hungry child.

Works Cited

Tisler, Henry. *Introduction to Sociology: Includes Built-in Study Guide and Practice Tests.*

Forth Worth: Harcourt Brace College Publishers, 1999.