Social Movement Project (100 pts.)

Due Friday, December 2 at the beginning of class

In this assignment your task is to (a) identify a social inequality issue (class, race, gender, or sexuality) that is of interest to you and to explain the key problems related to this issue. Then you are to (b) analyze one social movement that’s aim is to change social conditions related to your issue (note: you are not permitted to do this paper on abortion). Finally, you are to (c) design a social movement that might better address the problems identified at the beginning of your paper.

[A note on the “sociological imagination”: C. Wright Mills wrote that the sociological imagination allows us to see our own individual situations and the situations of others as part of a larger social system. In enables us to appreciate how individuals are often falsely conscious of their social positions. Movements that work on issues of social inequality usually utilize this “imagination”, and thus see people's problems as, at least partially, a result of the current organization of society. You should attempt to utilize your own sociological imagination in this paper.]

Papers should be 5-7 pages in length and typed, double-spaced using Times New Roman 12-point font. Laptops can be checked out at the student union and the library.

General Information on your Topic: (30 pts.)
- Identify your topic area and why it is of concern to you. Look through the book and find a social inequality issue (i.e. gender inequality in pay, class inequality in housing, racial inequality, etc.) that you find personally interesting to you.
- Explain why this issue interests you. How did you become interested in it?
- Explain the concerns and problems related to your topic area.
- What are the key problems related to this issue? What specific problem is of interest to you?

Existing Social Movements: (30 pts.)
- What social movement organization is already working to change social conditions in your topic area or has previously worked for social change? (note: any social inequality issue identified in the book will in the past or currently have a social movement organization working for change)
- How does this organization define the problem?
- What type of social movement organization is this (look through your notes to identify the type)?
- What tactics do they use?
- Give an example of an action or campaign by the social movement organization. Has their campaign been successful? Why or why not?
- Are they addressing all dimensions of the problem?

Your Social Movement: (30 pts.)
- What suggestions do you have to improve the effectiveness of the above organization?
- If you were to address this social justice issue what type of social movement organization would you organize?
- What aspects of your topic area would you focus on?
- What tactics would you use to affect social change?

Grammar and Organization: (10 pts.)

*Assignment adapted from Jodi Ross and Suzanne Slusser, The University of Akron