

What Is Sociology? Applying What You've Learned

Lab

Who's at Your Table?

How different does your life appear when you view it through the eyes of a sociologist?

1. INTRODUCTION

First, read through the lab in your textbook. Then use this worksheet to help you complete the lab.

2. CONDUCTING YOUR OBSERVATION

Before lunch, review the questions in the table on the following page that the lab requires you to answer. Knowing the questions beforehand should help you to focus your observations. As soon as you can after lunch, answer the questions in the table. Use additional paper if necessary. Use your completed table to help you prepare an essay describing the social interaction you observed. Remember to bring your essay and notes to the next class.

3. DISCUSSION AND EVALUATION

Participate in the group discussion about this lab. When the discussion is over, use the space below to reflect on what you've learned from this lab and how you can apply what you've learned to your daily life.

Questions	Observations
Who are the leaders at the table? What traits do they possess that result in their having this role?	
Who are the followers? What traits do they possess that result in their having this role?	
Who instigates the conversations?	
Does anyone control the conversation? How does he or she manage this control?	
What subjects are discussed? Why are these subjects chosen and not others?	
What interests and qualities do the members of the table have that draw them together?	
Is everyone welcome at the table or is seating limited to a select group? If seating is limited, how are boundaries set to establish the table as a closed group?	
How diverse is the group at your table? If it is not diverse, what do you think the reason is for this? If it is, what factors encourage this diversity?	