



Sociology Virtual Learning

High School/Lesson 25

Coronavirus through the

Sociological Perspectives

April 24, 2020



Sociology

Lesson: April 24th, 2020

Objective/Learning Target: The student will be able to explain the Corona Virus and its effects on society through the lens of the three sociological perspectives.

Warm Up:

On a separate piece of paper, write down in your own words what you think will change about society because of the Coronavirus. For instance: I believe the institution of education might change and become more technologically advanced because of the Coronavirus.

Essential Vocabulary:

Functionalism: the approach in sociology that emphasizes the contributions made by each part of society.

Conflict perspective: the approach in sociology that emphasizes the role of conflict, competition, and constraint within a society.

Symbolic Interactionism: the approach in sociology that focuses on the interactions among people based on mutually understood symbols.

Lesson/Activity:

Functionalism stresses that all parts of society must work together much like the parts of the body must work together. It emphasizes cooperation among the different groups within a society. A change in one part of society will lead to a change in another. For example: a major change in the economy might create major changes for the family.

Lesson/Activity

Conflict perspective concentrates on the role played by conflict, constraint, and competition and how a society changes and grows as a result of this. For instance, the threat of war has led to many advancements from nuclear energy and weapons advancement, all the way to the invention of the internet. Remember: the cliché “Iron sharpens iron” is a great example of how to think about Conflict perspective.

Lesson/Activity:

Symbolic Interactionism is a little more abstract than the others. It focuses on the interactions among people based on mutually understood symbols. The meaning of a symbol is not determined by its own physical characteristics. Those who create and use the symbols assign the meanings to them. If the people in a group do not share the same meanings for a symbol, confusion results. For example, if some people interpreted the red light of a traffic signal to mean go, and some people interpreted it to mean stop, chaos would result.

Lesson/Activity:

For added insight into this subject, check out this video link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbTt_ySTjaY

Practice:

On the paper you did your bellwork on, answer the following questions in paragraph form:

1. How would a functionalist explain changes in society as a result of the coronavirus?
2. How would a conflict theorist explain changes in society as a result of the coronavirus?
3. How would symbolic interactionism explain the coronavirus phenomenon?

(Answers will vary based on students opinions.)

Reflection:

The Coronavirus will change society as we knew it previously. Each sociological perspective has its own way of explaining this. It is important to understand the three theoretical perspectives of sociology because these are the ways sociologists explain how society changes, adapts, and advances.