



Livonia Public Schools

Academic Services

Date: Friday, May 22, 2020

To: Kevin Etue, Churchill High School
Andrew Pesci, Franklin High School
Gary Harper, Stevenson High School

From: Christine Fankell
7-12 Curriculum Coordinator for ELA and Social Studies

Re: Textbook Adoption for Sociology

Committee Members

Traci Romeo, Churchill High School
Ryan Tracy, Franklin High School
Lori Roy, Stevenson Highschool

Recommended Textbook:

The Real World: An Introduction to Sociology, 7e, 2020, Norton and Publishing Inc.

Aimee Lam, Sales Representative
Norton and Company, Inc.
Office: (312) 720-8603
alam@wnnorton.com

Materials INCLUDED

ebook 6 year license
InQuisitive
Writing for Sociology Tutorials
Data Workshop
Sociology in Practice Video Clips
Interactive Instructor's Guide
Instructor Resources

Cost proposal is attached.

Summary of Course

This textbook would be used in our Sociology course which is offered as a social studies elective at each high school. This one semester course provides an introduction to sociology with a focus on:

- Sociological Perspective and Methods of Inquiry
- Social Structure: Culture, Institutions, and Society
- Social Relationships: Self, Groups, and Socialization

Methods of inquiry are taught to support students with applying sociological theories.

Overview

Sociology is a course that has been offered as a social studies elective at all three high schools. The course currently uses Sociology: A Down to Earth Approach 4th Ed. (1998) as a textbook resource. It was determined that a new curriculum resource was needed to provide relevant and updated case studies, digital access, and alignment to current National Standards for High School Sociology.

The committee recommends The Real World: An Introduction to Sociology, 7e as a curriculum resource for the sociology course because it is written for high school students, provides contemporary case studies, includes digital access, and creates opportunities for students to “do sociology” through data workshops.

Evaluation Process

A committee was formed with members representing each of the high schools. The committee followed the textbook adoption process as outlined by the Board of Education policy. This included the review of multiple resources, piloting two resources, a student survey, and the proposed recommendation.

Shared Vision of Committee Members

We concluded that our ideal materials would include the following:

- A variety of engaging materials
- A curriculum resource to supporting mapping a common curriculum for teachers
- Support for reading strategies (e.g. think alouds, questioning)
- Appropriate readability for high school students
- Opportunities for inquiry
- Formative assessment for content and process

Evaluation Criteria

We evaluated the textbooks with a rubric that had four main categories: Organization/Format, Content, Assessment, Teacher’s Edition and Supplementary Materials. Within each of these categories, were several indicators related to that domain.

Textbooks Evaluated

Sociology and You, McGraw-Hill

Sociology, 16th Edition, Pearson/Prentice Hall

Sociology Structure and Change, Pearson/Prentice Hall

Sociology: A Down to Earth Approach, Pearson
The Real World: Introduction to Sociology, Norton

Evaluation Rubric Outcome

Sociology: A Down to Earth Approach (Pearson) and The Real World: Introduction to Sociology were identified to pilot because of their readability. Some of the textbooks we reviewed were intended for college level courses. The rubric outcome for these two books was similar with The Real World: Introduction to Sociology scoring higher in criteria for content and organization.

Pilot Outcome

After the pilot, committee members met and agreed that The Real World: Introduction to Sociology would be recommended for adoption. This curriculum resource was the best match to the committee's vision and rubric criteria. The committee especially appreciated the interactive and engaging activities that put students in the role of sociologists, creating opportunities for students to study society, apply methods of inquiry, and draw conclusions.

Student Comment Samples

- Encouraged discussion in the classroom. Helped me understand real world applications. Engaged me in challenging tasks.
- More graphs and statistics in this one.
- This book I felt was more engaging than the other book and with more diagrams and pictures to help the reader understand the topic and be given a visual.

Professional Development Needs

- Training of all online components
- Overview of print resources
- Time for collaboration and planning

C Theresa O'Brien

Dan Willenborg

Social Studies Department Chairs