Find and Cite Three-to-Five Sources: Applying the Sociological Imagination to Critical Information Literacy

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**Sociological Information Literacy Framework (Draft)**

**Author:** Sociology Subgroup, Instruction & Information Literacy Committee, Anthropology & Sociology Section, Association of College & Research Libraries

**Presenters:**
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**Sociological Literacy Framework Concepts**

**Authority Is Constructed and Contextual**
- Evaluate based on information need and context, different types of authorities.

**Information Creation as a Process**
- Different formats reflect varying messages and delivery methods.

**Information Has Value**
- As commodity, education, influence, understanding; role of legal and socio-economic interests

**Research as Inquiry**
- Iterative question asking, methods, analysis

**Scholarship as Conversation**
- Sustained discourse, varied perspectives

**Searching as Strategic Exploration**
- Iterative evaluation of range of sources, mental flexibility

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**Sociological Eye**

**Sociology as a distinctive discipline**
- Social basis and construction of knowledge
- "Truth is political"
- Scientific knowledge vs. other ways of knowing
- "Commerce is the medium of knowledge"

**Social Structure**

The impact of social structures on human action
- Social roles may privilege some as authorities
- Social institutions exert influence over what is considered valid or factual

**Socialization**

The relationship between the self and society
- Ideologies impact accepted authorities
- "Fake news"

**Stratification**

The patterns and effects of social inequality
- Institutions with authority to produce knowledge recreate social inequalities
- Certain forms of knowledge production are valued over others: e.g., low income students as "lacking" cultural capital, rather the institutional de-valuing of different cultures

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**Social Change and Social Reproduction**

How social phenomena replicate and change
- Scientific authority comes from institutional de-valuing of different cultures
- Cultural capital, rather the scientific authority
- "Profitable" research outputs receive more value and resources

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