

High School Workshop Toolkit: Understanding the Social Construction of Reality

Jared Wagenknecht, Maria De Jesus Mora

November 30, 2023

SUGGESTED CITATION

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Wagenknecht, Jared, and Maria De Jesus Mora. 2023. "High School Workshop Toolkit: Understanding the Social Construction of Reality". *TRAILS: Teaching Resources and Innovations Library for Sociology*, November. Washington DC: American Sociological Association. <https://trails.asanet.org/article/view/understanding-social-construction>.

Abstract

This lesson is an activity that uses a humorous street magician video to help students discuss and understand "the social construction of reality." It also includes a reading excerpt explaining this concept. There are two potential assessments that ask students to utilize their sociological imagination to connect a real-world event with the concept of social construction. The lesson was designed with high school students in mind but could also work with any introduction to sociology course.

In 2022, ASA assembled a workshop with high school sociology teachers and sociology professors to develop resources for a new "High School Sociology Toolbox." The goal of the toolbox was to provide out of the box lesson plans and other materials to help high school teachers offer a high-quality sociology curriculum that is consistent with the National Standards for High School Sociology. The Standards

introduce four learning domains for high school sociology and include assessable competencies and essential concepts for each domain. Through the toolbox, instructors have access to ready-to-use lesson plans and class activities that align with concepts in each domain.

Details

Subject Areas: Other

Resource Types: Class Activity

Class Levels: High School

Class Sizes: Any

Usage Notes

See detailed instructions in attached lesson plan. The initial activity takes no longer than one 50–60-minute class period. However, the optional extended learning assignments will likely take more time for students to complete.

Learning Goals and Assessments

LEARNING GOALS

- 1) Define the “social construction of reality.”

- 2) Assess the impact of social context and social interactions on human behavior and beliefs in a specific example

- 3) Use the “sociological imagination” to assess how their own experiences have been impacted by the “social construction of reality.”

ASSESSMENTS

Informal discussion-based checks for understanding,

A one paragraph writing assignment addressing four questions,

and an optional extended learning activity researching three famous social experiments.

Resource Files

PPTX

PDF