

Finding Data for Self, Community & Society- Part I Lesson Plan

This creative commons publication provides a lesson plan on finding data for community based learning. This lesson was co-designed by Nicole Branch and Dr. Laura Nichols at Santa Clara University. The plan was designed for the course Sociology 30, Self, Community & Society with a focus on education. In addition to their coursework, students are placed in community based organizations where they provided service for one quarter. This is part one of a three part series. The plan is designed for use in higher education settings and is aligned with the Framework for Information Literacy in Higher Education.

Audience

Undergraduate

Session Length

65 minutes

Number of Students

15-40

Aim	Learning Outcomes
Students will be introduced to finding school and community data and to critically analyzing data and statistics.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="574 1037 1424 1150">1. Identify and navigate sources for data/statistics about schools and communities (Frame: Searching as strategic exploration)<li data-bbox="574 1150 1424 1226">2. Construct a school & community profile using data and statistics (Frame: Information has value)<li data-bbox="574 1226 1424 1339">3. Critically analyze data/statistics and the presentation of data/statistics in the context of community service (Frame: Authority is constructed & contextual)

Prior Knowledge Needed	Materials
In advance of this session, students will have selected a placement site. This session is completed prior to beginning service at the site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="639 1495 1424 1528">● SOCI 30 LibGuide: http://libguides.scu.edu/soc30<li data-bbox="639 1528 1424 1642">● Finding School & Community Slides: http://www.slideshare.net/NicoleBranch/finding-school-community-data<li data-bbox="639 1642 1424 1675">● Class worksheet: Attached



Instructional Content

Information/Key Points	<p>Students will learn to identify where they might find school and community data; practice accessing this data; and create a school community data profile. Students will also be introduced to some of the problems of bias when looking at school and community data. For part one, student will find data for the high school they attended and the community they grew up in. In part two, students will collect the same data for a school in the community they will be working in over the course of the quarter.</p>
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Brief lecture ● Demonstration of sources for school and community data ● Individual search time
Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduction & Welcome : State the purpose of the session and why data is important to community service work. ● Part 1: Brief lecture on finding school data, including some of the political aspects/problems with school data. ● Part 2: Students are introduced to sources for finding school data (California School Accountability Report Cards or SARCs, school report cards from other states and Private School Universe Survey data). Students then complete a worksheet (see below) by using the appropriate data source to find information about their high school and community. See instructions below. ● Part 3: Students are introduced to using the American Community Survey (ACS) to find community data at the census tract level. Students then complete the second half of the worksheet by using the ACS to find statistics about the community they grew up in. See instructions below. ● Closing ● Assignment: Students complete the worksheet and submit their work along with a narrative reflection about their school and community based on their experience and the data they found.
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Narrative reflection ● Worksheet




Attachments

Activity Instructions

Instructions

Today you will explore school and community data for the school and community where you attended high school.

1. Download the worksheet below.

-  [School & Community Data Worksheet](#)

2. Complete Part 1 for the high school you attended.

3. Complete Part 2 for your community.

School Data

Part 1: School Statistics

In the first exercise you will find data about the high school you attended. The source of your data will depend on type of school you attended (public, private or charter) and the state the school is located in. Use the sources below to explore data about your own school.

California Public School Data

- **School Accountability Report Cards (SARC)**
School Accountability Report Cards (available annually from the California Department of Education) are a very useful source for school statistics including demographics, school performance, and school characteristics.
- **DataQuest**
DataQuest (from the California Department of Education) helps you find facts about California schools and districts, including data about enrollment, dropout rates, and school performance.

National Private School Data

- **Data-Planet**
Data-Planet provides access to a repository of standardized and structured statistical data. Through a single platform, users can search and browse 25 billion data points in over 4.3 billion datasets sourced from over 70 authoritative government and private sources.

Other State Public School Data

- **Colorado State School Dashboards**
Find school-level statistics for public schools in Colorado.
- **Hawaii School Status & Improvement Report**
Find school-level statistics for public schools in Hawaii.
- **Illinois School Report Cards**
Find school-level statistics for public schools in Illinois.
- **Nevada Annual Reports of Accountability**
Find school-level statistics for public schools in Nevada.
- **Oregon School and District Report Cards**
Find school-level statistics for public schools in Oregon.
- **Washington State Report Cards**
Get school-level statistics for Washington State public schools.



Part 2: Neighborhood Statistics

Next you will find statistics about the community your grew up in. To do this, access the American Community Survey address search tool below , enter the address of the home you were living in in high school, and complete the second portion of the worksheet.

- **American FactFinder- Address Search Tool**

American FactFinder provides access to data from the U.S. Census and the American Community Survey



SOCI 30 Spring 2016
 School & Community Data Worksheet
 [Your Name], [Date]

School Data

	[Your School Name & Location]	Source	[Community School Name]	Source
School Type: public, private, etc.				
Total School Enrollment				
Top three racial/ethnic groups at the school site: include the percentage of the population for each of the top three				
% Socio-economically disadvantaged				
% English Learners				
% Students with Disabilities				
% of students scoring at proficient/advanced in science				
% of students scoring at proficient/advanced in Language Arts				
% of students scoring at proficient/advanced in Math				
% of students scoring at proficient/advanced in History/Social Science				
4-year graduation rate				
Drop-out rate				
% of graduates who completed all courses required for UC/CSU Admission				
% of graduates who go on to 2 & 4 year colleges				

Observations/Notes:

SOCI 30 Spring 2016
 School & Community Data Worksheet
 [Your Name], [Date]

Community Data

	[Your Census Tract Number & Location]	Source	[Community Census Tract]	Source
Total Population				
% of people age 19 and under				
% White				
% Black/African American				
% American Indian and Alaska Native				
% Asian				
%Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander				
% Some other race				
% Hispanic/Latino				
% of population 25 and over that have not graduated from high school				
% of housing units that are owner-occupied				
% of housing units that are renter-occupied				
Median housing unit value (in dollars)				
Median household income				
Top industry for employed population				
Second highest industry for employed population				
% of female-householder families (no husband present)				
% of children under 18 living in poverty				

Observations/Notes: