Lesson Plan Ideas for Domain 1

The Sociological Perspective and Methods of Inquiry

Assessable Competencies 1.4 - Students will identify, differentiate among, and apply a variety of sociological theories.

Masking Tape on the Floor

Lay a piece of masking tape on the middle of your floor in your classroom. Ask students to face a partner. Give them 10 seconds to get their partner to their side of the tape. (Most students will yank their partner or give in and walk to the other side of the tape). Explain how they approached this as a “win/lose” proposition when it is really possible for it to be “win/win.” (All they had to do was switch sides with their partner). Introduce conflict theory.

Sociological Musical Chairs

Play a game of musical chairs. In the first round, it is just the normal rules; whoever doesn't get in a chair when the music stops is out. (Here is an example of conflict theory – competition/power struggle over limited resources.)

For the second round, students can’t be out. I will still remove chairs, but the goal is to still have somewhere to sit each round. They can hold on to any part of the chairs or each other to make this happen. This is an example of Functionalism. Each structure (person in the game) is needed in order to keep the society (team) stable. Without each person working towards the whole, the entire group could fail.

Symbolic Interaction - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=113&v=qmXacLOUny0
Sociological Perspective – Examining cultures’ similarities and differences
George Carlin - Baseball v. Football

Symbolic Interaction – Big Bang Theory https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UM4xLRHYeQ

All perspectives - Freaks and Geeks https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R24HH7ophg
Freaks and Geeks

Identify the following perspectives at when viewing the Freaks and Geeks pilot.

Functionalism – Emphasizes the different contributions of all parts of a society

Remember manifest functions (intended consequences), latent functions (unintended consequences), and dysfunction (negative consequences).

Conflict Perspective – Social living is a contest of who attains the most power

Symbolic Interaction – focuses on the interactions among people based on mutually understood symbols.
Identify the following perspectives at when viewing the *Freaks and Geeks* pilot.

**Functionalism** – Emphasizes the different contributions of all parts of a society
- Remember manifest functions (intended consequences), latent functions (unintended consequences), and dysfunction (negative consequences).
- **Dinner Table** – Mom says school is also about learning to socialize
- **Geeks** – Burnouts – Mathletes – each serve a function at the school

**Conflict Perspective** – Social living is a contest of who attains the most power
- **Dad** “forces” Lindsay to go to dance or she has to work at his store
- **Alan / Sam relationship**
- **Counselor** tries to manipulate Lindsay to get her to be a “Mathlete”

**Symbolic Interaction** – focuses on the interactions among people based on mutually understood symbols.
- **Homecoming Dance**
- **Lindsay’s Jacket**
- **Eli**
- **Laughing when Sam catches the dodgeball**
- **Lindsay** – “What are you going to do?” with an uneasy smile when she meets Daniel’s friends
- **The Patio**

* **Sociological Perspective** – Lindsay’s world view changes after being with her grandmother when she dies.