

Sociology: Grades 11-12



Black Friday; James Coleman's Rational Choice Theory

<p>Objectives</p>	<p>The purpose of this lesson plan is to recap previous lessons over what qualifies as a social change, social problem, and socially acceptable in a class discussion.</p> <p>Following this lesson students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conclude personal informed-opinions on social events such as Black Friday. • Increase knowledge and understanding on social interactions and use in class discussion. • Determine limits and expectations of social events, such as Black Friday, and the safety issues it may bring. • Accurately describe knowledge on James Coleman's Rational Choice Theory. • If an event is determined to be a social problem, actively create solutions and determine reasoning: Answer the question: Why did this happen? What can help fix it?
<p>Preparations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pull up 'TwitVid' to refer to, load and have ready.
<p>Procedure</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recap over previous lesson plans with exact definitions of social change and social problems. 2. Discuss why Sociology isn't about clean cut definitions and how it must be applied to an event, and how people may interpret those events differently. 3. Example 'TwitVid' (http://www.twitvid.com/MSV54). 4. Discuss personal experiences; let the class reflect on the video they have just watched. 5. Introduce James Coleman's Rational Choice Theory and discuss how that may be applied to the Black Friday 'TwitVid'.

	<p>6. Discuss with class: social change, what is different about Black Friday from society 50 years ago? 20 years ago? 10? What are some of the factors that cause these changes? Could this qualified as a Social Change or simply a component of a larger change?</p> <p>7. Discuss how this is an example of why it is hard to determine an exact answer, and circle back to how sociology can deal with interpretation.</p> <p>8. End the discussion with the question is this, to the student a social problem?</p>
<p>Evaluation</p>	<p>Have students write a 1-2 page follow up answering the following question in their personal opinion using the new information while showing backup after reading section in book over James Coleman.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In your own words and opinion, is Black Friday a social change and/or part of a social change? • Why are some of the factors into Black Friday? (refer to James Coleman’s Rational Choice Theory.) • Would you say this is a social problem? If so what changes would you make for social safety.