Criminology: Draft of Research Paper

This is a first draft. I want you to tell me which of the following topics you want to write your research paper on, giving me some background information on the topic. Drafts are more of a safety measure so that you and I are both sure you can write a ten to fifteen page paper on the topic. Remember, once you choose a topic, you must stick with it and are not allowed to modify the original proposal. Here are the topics to choose from:

1. Who are the Lakota and why did they takeover Wounded Knee? Which theory of crime best explains their behavior in 1973? What do the Lakota have in common with the Zapatistas? What does the future hold for the Lakota and the likelihood of more violence?
   -While any theory of crime can be used to explain the takeover of Wounded Knee, Strain Theory must be addressed in some form.

2. Over the last thirty years our government has declared a War on Drugs. Behind this war lies a reliance on deterrence theory. Explain this relationship. Finally, what has been the effect of such a war on drug usage and the prison population? How have things been changing over the last two years with our drug laws?
   -Beccaria from your text should be used as a main source.

4. Are we too soft on white collar criminals? Is our criminal justice system designed to imprison poor people and go easy on the rich and powerful? Discuss two to three high profile cases, and a similar number of laws, with special attention paid to conflict/critical theory in your analysis.
   -The following cases must be discussed (more if you wish): The Ford Pinto and the 2008 Financial Collapse.

5. Edward Snowden, the famous NSA leaker living in Russia, revealed a global, mammoth spying program from our federal government. From spying on its citizens (phone records, emails, etc.) to spying on world leaders, only now are we beginning to see the true scope of this program. Where did it come from? How extensive was the spying? Was this a “state crime?” (i.e. government crime) If so, who should be punished and how?

Requirements:

a) The draft should be between 3 and 4 pages in length
b) A bibliography should be included, with at least 4 sources cited, more if you want. Newspaper and magazine articles are NOT acceptable for the proposal. Internet sources are only acceptable if academic and reputable. Please attend the library reference class for assistance in finding academic sources via the internet.
c) Typed, double spaced, stapled, reasonable margins and fonts.

Grading:

Spelling and Grammar: 15 points
   One of the easiest ways to get points taken off is not to use spell check. I am somewhat lenient with mistakes like using "than" instead of "then." But when I get words like "thryfgrntz" and it's supposed to be "therefore" that's a little tougher to take. Use spell check and READ over your papers! Many spelling and grammatical errors can be caught this way. This is hard to do if you give me a paper "hot off the press."

Introduction/thesis statement: 15 points
Here you should state the topic you are writing on and what your focus will be. For example, if you are writing your paper about white collar crime, what crimes will you be focusing on? What do you want your paper to show/prove/explain?

**Body**: 20 points
Give some background information. Why do you think it is important? What are some highlights your paper will be focusing on? What are some major events surrounding the theory and issue you chose?

**Conclusion**: 10 points
Summarize some of your main points. This is also a section to give your insight into the matter. For example, if you are looking at the death penalty, what do you think the future holds for this practice? What are your feelings towards the issue?

**Total**: 60 points (the final draft will be worth 100 points)

questions, e-mail me at lugow@easternct.edu or stop by my office (11 Eastern Hall).

**Sources**

Here is some guidance into what are reputable sources and where to find them.

Remember, anybody can have an opinion and the only reason you hear some people's opinion is because they can afford to put it anywhere, but it doesn't mean it's a good opinion. Here are some examples of good, average, and just plain awful sources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Good: (use often)</th>
<th>Average: (use sparingly)</th>
<th>Plain Awful: (be careful)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Sociological Review</td>
<td>New York Times</td>
<td>Enquirer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Journal of Sociology</td>
<td>Washington Post</td>
<td>Your roommate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Forces</td>
<td>Most newspapers</td>
<td>your former roommates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Economic Review</td>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Something you heard, but just can't remember from where.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of Higher Education</td>
<td>Newsweek</td>
<td>T.V. Guide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Demography</td>
<td>websites (from organizations)</td>
<td>Dateline, 60 minutes, etc. websites (from the guy next door).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Books</td>
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<td>Textbooks (like the one from class)</td>
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If you plan on going against my suggestions, and want to use a "Plain Awful" resource, don't make it your only support. Sometimes "Plain Awful" resources are good for examples or secondary support, but they should not be used as primary support (i.e. they should NOT be the backbone of an argument you are making)