Sociology Style Guidelines:

• Use present tense!
  - Especially when discussing an author’s argument from an assigned book, (e.g., “Author X argues that…”)

• Use parenthetical citations for in-text citations.
  - (Last name year: pg#), and provide the full reference in a “References” or “Works Cited” section at the end of the paper.
  - Footnotes are for ideas that don’t fit into the main body of the paper and should be used sparingly.

• If you refer to someone else’s idea, or say something contested or controversial, provide a citation and explain what you mean.

• Beware of passive voice.
  - This is especially true in sociology because it is important to identify the actor.
  - Using “society” as an actor is not usually wise – avoiding this will force you to be very precise with your argument

• Be precise with your argument
  - Introductions with broad, unsubstantiated claims do not help your argument – get right to the point.

• Use concise, clear sentences. No flowery language necessary.
  - Don’t use a fancy word when a simple one will convey the same meaning

• Respect word/page limits.
  - It is easier for most of you to write more than less
  - This is a learned skill – you will get better at it over time.