

Sociology 101**Assignment 4 - High School Dropouts/Graduation**

To: Department of Education Intern
From: RSU 25 School Board
Date: 9/20/17
Re: Respond to Community Concern about Dropout Rates

The School Board has asked us to provide information recent dropout rates for the high school. In order to respond to their concerns, we need you to help us frame the issues in two ways:

- 1) We need to look at the dropout rates and determine how this school is performing relative to other schools in Hancock County, the state of Maine and the US. We also need to determine whether the dropout rates are increasing as many people believe. Should we be looking at dropout rates or graduation rates?
- 2) Please suggest some strategies that we might consider for reducing dropout rates in this high school. You may want to look quickly at the literature on why students drop out for ideas.

Deliverable on 9/27/17: A Brief memo with

- a) What you are going to present and why
- b) The town and the high school that you investigated
- c) Recent dropout rates for the high school and if possible some historic rates
- d) Dropout rates for the county, state and country if you can find something comparable
 - i) The Department of education puts most of their data online at:
http://dw.education.maine.gov/DirectoryManager/Web/maine_report/MaineLanding.aspx
 - ii) Bonus for graphs showing trends or comparisons
- e) Risk factors and protective factors that may explain dropping out of high school
- f) Your recommendations