

**MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**College of Education and Human Services**

**CURR 509: Sociocultural Perspectives on Teaching and Learning**

Community Study (G)—Task Description

The purpose of this assignment is to help you: (a) develop a framework for understanding the relationship between schools, communities, and society; (b) cultivate skills needed to familiarize yourself with diverse communities and their residents; (c) envision ways you can help your future students see connections between their in- and out-of-school experiences; (d) and promote your ability to work collaboratively with colleagues. The assignment involves an in-depth investigation of a diverse community and its schools. Specifically, your investigation will focus on a racially/ethnically diverse and economically impoverished district (from among those formerly designated as “Abbott” districts). A list of these districts will be provided in class.

This project asks that you work collaboratively with one or a few other members of the class. It involves a variety of activities, including:

- Spending time in the community to learn about it first-hand
- Speaking with people who live and/or work in the community
- Analyzing demographic information about the community, taken from the U.S. Census Bureau
- Analyzing students’ performance on key assessments systematically administered in school, as reported in the most current School Report Cards published by the New Jersey Department of Education
- Conducting relevant internet searches
- Researching an agency/organization that provide education-related services to children in the target community
- Develop a culturally responsive learning activity for students in the target community

As part of this project you are expected to produce two reports, one submitted by the group and the other individually. A detailed outline for both reports will be discussed in class.