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# Sociology Teaching Resources

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As graduate students, we may be teaching or working as teaching assistants for the first time. It can be intimidating to have to prepare content each week on top of keeping up with our writing, research, coursework, etc. I compiled a list of resources that can help you more efficiently prepare for teaching your classes or discussion sections. While not an exhaustive list, the following resources are ones that have been helpful to me.

## ASA TRAILS

ASA Teaching Resources and Innovations Library for Sociology (TRAILS) is a resource available to all members of ASA. It is a peer-reviewed library that contains class activities, assignments, and syllabi. **Link:** <http://trails.asanet.org/Pages/default.aspx>

## Sociological Cinema

Sociological Cinema is another library focused on video clips that can be used during classes. The website is available free of charge. You can also submit videos to the library, which are peer edited before they are published. The sources at the Sociological Cinema have been helpful to me by providing visual examples to demonstrate course concepts. I have found that a visual example helps students understand sociological concepts, develop critical thinking skills by analyzing visual media, and apply sociological concepts to their everyday lives. **Link:** <https://www.thesociologicalcinema.com>

## Supplemental resources from textbooks

The textbook that you or your instructor of record selected to use typically have supplemental materials. These supplemental materials can include PowerPoints, exam questions, and ideas for course activities. You can contact the publisher for these resources.

## Colleagues

Sharing teaching materials such as class activities, syllabi, and videos is common amongst colleagues. Reach out to other TAs and professors for ideas or specific materials they used. I have personally benefited tremendously from course materials created by senior instructors who generously shared their syllabi and activities with me. I frequently adapt course materials I received from other instructors to better reflect my own teaching style and the course topic, class size, and student level. You can easily bring in your own creativity and ideas to the materials you borrow from others.

## Teaching Sociology

Teaching Sociology is sociology's top teaching journal. You can find peer-reviewed articles on the scholarship of teaching and learning in sociology. For example, one of my favorite articles is Dr. Chavella Pittman's piece titled "Race and Gender Oppression in the Classroom: The Experiences of Women Faculty of Color with White Male Students." She sheds light on the gendered racism that women of color face from white male students in the classroom. This article, like many others, may help you feel like you are not alone with teaching challenges that you may face as a graduate student. You can also submit articles to this journal. **Link:** <http://journals.sagepub.com/home/tso>

## Your university's teaching center

It is increasingly common for universities to have their own teaching center dedicated to providing workshops on teaching and pedagogy for faculty and graduate students. If your school does not have a teaching center, research other teaching centers across the country to see if they made their workshop PowerPoints or other teaching resources available online. The Center for Research on Learning and Teaching at the University of Michigan has great online resources: <http://www.crlt.umich.edu/>