1. **Popular Opinion and Stereotypes**

Think about the group you’re researching for Assignment 4. Why does anyone who’s not a member even know about them?

What is the average person’s (e.g., a person who hasn’t done any research) opinion of the group? How is the group discussed in classes or in pop culture?

(What assumptions do people make about the group? How do they judge people in the group? Consider stereotypes here.)

1. **Apply Your Research**

Everyone assumes that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

But really \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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1. **What’s good here?**

Suspend all judgment and forget all stereotypes. Based on your research, why do people join the group? What are the benefits?

Imagine you are a person who has the option of joining. What would motivate you? What would you find there to make you feel like you belonged? What would you get from being a member of this group that you couldn’t get anywhere else?

What type of positive impacts does the group have on the world around it?

How would the group give your life meaning or structure? What would you learn? How would it affect the way you live, shape your values, and influence your life goals? **How would membership in the group shape your views on living a life of significance? How would it help you live out that life of significance?**

1. **What’s Not-So-Good Here**

Suspend all judgment and forget all stereotypes. Based on your research, what might be some negatives about being part of this group?

If it purports to have a positive mission statement, does it live that out? Have its goals become distorted?

Are members of the group having the experience they expect? Are negative things happening that aren’t what they signed up for?

What is power like in the group? Are some individuals or factions exercising power and authority in a negative or controlling way? What is the effect of that on members?

What types of negative impacts does the group have on the world around it?

Imagine that you’re a member of this group. What negative impacts might it have on your life? How would it negatively impact your views or your pursuit of a life of significance?