Essay Writing Assignment 1: The Sociological Perspective

The first writing assignment involves integrating your understanding of the relationship between self and society as we have come to understand it via investigations into the elements of culture, socialization, and social structure. Your essay should be 1000 words typed (approximately 3 pages) and should be descriptive, definitive and written in a proper grammatical style for essays (standard college-level prose).

Imagine that, at your young age, you have become famous (do NOT write why; -5 points if you write why you are now famous) and that a big book publisher wants you to write your autobiography (giving you a $20,000 advance simply to write an outline of your book!). The company says that you should submit a 1000-word summary of your autobiography by Monday September 16th to collect your advance.

Grading Rubric:
(1) STYLE:
Type your 1000-word essay using a standard font (Times New Roman or similar) and point size (10-12), with 1" margins, double-spaced, stapled, with your name typed or written clearly on the BACK of the paper. DO NOT include cover page, illustrations, charts or figures.

(2) DEFINITION:
Somewhere within your essay you must define and describe the following terms: sociology, society, self, norms, roles, institutions, culture, and socialization. Be sure to put each term used in bold type.

(3) READING COMPREHENSION:
Include in the essay at least one reference to the readings you have been assigned so far this semester (Intro to Sociology textbook, "Body Ritual...", “Extreme Isolation”). Include references to recommended readings for extra credit. You do not need to use full reference citation format, but you MUST note the author(s) by name when you make reference to their ideas.

(4) CONNECTION:
You must use at least one personal example within the essay, a concrete story from your life demonstrating how three or more of the terms you are defining are connected.

(5) STRUCTURE:
There should be a clear structure in the paper stipulating what you will be talking about in the essay (for example, "The story of my life must be told backward...", or "My autobiography begins with family and ends with myself...") and a clear conclusion in the last paragraph of the paper (for instance, "I have learned from my experience that...") or “The moral of my story is...”) highlighting how your society and culture have influenced who you are.

DUE: In class on MONDAY SEPTEMBER 16th.