Essay Assignment: Letters Between Theorists

To complete this paper you will have to put yourself in the shoes of two theorists that we have covered this semester and write a 10-15 page essay. You should pretend that you are exchanging arguments/critiques with one another through written communication (i.e. a collection of letters). This essay should consist of a total of four letters.

The Letters:
1. In the first letter, you should put yourself in the place of theorist #1 and write a letter containing at least three critiques of theorist #2’s ideas (e.g. you could pretend to be Emile Durkheim critiquing John Locke’s notion of contractual society as your first critique). You need to provide at least three direct quotes from theorist #2 in your critiques. Be sure to develop each critique as fully as possible.

2. In the second letter, you should take the role of theorist #2 and respond to the critiques written by theorist #1 in the first letter. Be sure to defend yourself as thoroughly as possible in your role as theorist #2.

3. In the third letter, you should put yourself in the place of theorist #2 and write a letter containing at least three critiques of theorist #1’s ideas (NOTE: They must be different than the three already offered by theorist #1). You need to provide at least three direct quotes from theorist #1 in your critiques. Be sure to develop each critique as fully as possible.

4. In the final letter, you should take the role of theorist #1 and respond to the critiques written by theorist #2 in the third letter. Be sure to defend yourself as thoroughly as possible in your role as theorist #1.

Handing Everything In
Compile all four letters in one document. You should also turn in a 1-2 page outline (See pages 3-4 for an example) along with a cover sheet like the one on page 2. Staple the cover sheet, the outline, and the document containing all four letters together in this order and turn it in to me by the due date listed in your syllabus.

Here are the things that I will be looking at when I grade your papers:

- Have you included a cover sheet?
- Have you included an outline?
- Have you chosen two theorists?
- Have you written four letters (two from each theorist)?
- Have you developed each of your critiques logically and fully?
- Have you developed your rebuttals logically and fully?
- Is your paper free from grammatical, spelling, and other writing errors?
- Does the paper flow nicely (in other words, do you transition smoothly from one idea to the next)?
SAMPLE TITLE PAGE:

The Letters of Emile Durkheim and John Locke

By

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Prepared For Presentation to

Charles M. Brown, Instructor
Soc 403: Development of Sociological Thought
March 11, 2000
I. Letter #1: Emile Durkheim to John Locke
   A. Critique #1: List your critique here
      1. Point #1: List your point here
      2. Point #2: List your point here
      3. Point #3: List your point here
      4. Point #4: List your point here
      5. Point #5: List your point here
   B. Critique #2: List your critique here
      1. Point #1: List your point here
      2. Point #2: List your point here
   C. Critique #3: List your critique here
      1. Point #1: List your point here
      2. Point #2: List your point here
      3. Point #3: List your point here
      4. Point #4: List your point here

II. Letter #2: John Locke to Emile Durkheim
   A. Response to critique #1: List your response here
      1. Counter to Point #1: List your counterpoint here
      2. Counter to Point #2: List your counterpoint here
      3. Counter to Point #3: List your counterpoint here
      4. Counter to Point #4: List your counterpoint here
      5. Counter to Point #5: List your counterpoint here
   B. Critique #2: List your response here
      1. Counter to Point #1: List your counterpoint here
      2. Counter to Point #2: List your counterpoint here
   C. Critique #3: List your response here
      1. Counter to Point #1: List your counterpoint here
      2. Counter to Point #2: List your counterpoint here
      3. Counter to Point #3: List your counterpoint here
      4. Counter to Point #4: List your counterpoint here

I. Letter #3: John Locke to Emile Durkheim
   A. Critique #1: List your critique here
      1. Point #1: List your point here
      2. Point #2: List your point here
      3. Point #3: List your point here
      4. Point #4: List your point here
   B. Critique #2: List your critique here
      1. Point #1: List your point here
      2. Point #2: List your point here
      3. Point #3: List your point here
   C. Critique #3: List your critique here
      1. Point #1: List your point here
      2. Point #2: List your point here
      3. Point #3: List your point here
      4. Point #4: List your point here

II. Letter #2: Emile Durkheim to John Locke
   A. Response to critique #1: List your response here
      1. Counter to Point #1: List your counterpoint here
      2. Counter to Point #2: List your counterpoint here
      3. Counter to Point #3: List your counterpoint here
      4. Counter to Point #4: List your counterpoint here
   B. Critique #2: List your response here
      1. Counter to Point #1: List your counterpoint here
      2. Counter to Point #2: List your counterpoint here
      3. Counter to Point #3: List your counterpoint here
   C. Critique #3: List your response here
      1. Counter to Point #1: List your counterpoint here
      2. Counter to Point #2: List your counterpoint here
      3. Counter to Point #3: List your counterpoint here
      4. Counter to Point #4: List your counterpoint here