Your name: Group Number:

In this activity, your group will mimic the scientific struggle by working on a timed puzzle completion task. Each group will be given an envelope of puzzle pieces. You must work as a group to try to assemble the puzzle as quickly as possible – without additional information about what the final image looks like!

As you work, keep track of your observations about how your group worked on the puzzles. Think about what kinds of strategies were suggested and who suggested them, which strategies were followed, and what you learned.

**Part 1:**

1. **When the group has only the envelope of pieces and no guide**

Strategies suggested by group members:

Strategies attempted:

Outcomes (what did you learn about how to assemble the puzzle with no prior knowledge?)

1. **When the group has new information about the puzzle.**

Strategies suggested by group members:

Strategies attempted:

Outcomes (how did the new information change your strategies and help you work on the puzzle?)

1. **When the group received all the information.**

Strategies suggested by group members:

Strategies attempted:

Outcomes (how did the new information change your strategies and help you work on the puzzle?)

**Part 2:** Please write in the space below what you learned about the role of theory in social science research from doing this exercise. Think about the role of border pieces, the interior pieces, how information such as the picture helped you to understand what the puzzle was about. What are the comparable analogies in sociological theory? Explain. Discuss how this analogy between sociological theory and the border pieces of puzzles can help you as you study a particular set of data.