

Human Sexuality: Unit 1 Research Paper Assignment

The general idea for this assignment is to research some area of interest relevant to the current unit. Pick one topic from the options listed below, or discuss your own idea with the instructor. Search the internet for relevant information, then summarize your findings and make any conclusions you feel are warranted. Refer to the research paper formatting guidelines posted on the instructor's webpage for exact specifications concerning research papers and reference citations.

01. What are some of the most common sexual taboos both historically and across contemporary cultures? Speculate as to why certain practices are taboo. For example, incest can result in the emergence of recessive genetic traits, most of which are not beneficial.

02. The 20th Century ushered in a whole new era in terms of contraception. What were earlier contraceptive devices like, such as condoms and diaphragms? Were there other such devices? In particular, what were they made of and how well did they work? Were there associated risks to their use, such as infection? Did they provide any protection against STIs?

03. Find an online survey on sexuality. Look for legitimate research, not a magazine-like quiz. Describe the number and kind of questions asked. Do you think people would answer honestly and be willing to complete it?

04. Discuss recent findings concerning sexually related differences in brain organization. What is the nature and scope of the difference? What is the presumed cause? Are there any specific behavioral manifestations related to the difference?

05. Research a particular chromosome abnormality related to sex and gender. How is it expressed? How are these individuals classified in terms of gender? What is the frequency in the general population? What, if any, psychological effects are typically associated with the abnormality?

06. How much have gender roles really changed in the past sixty years or so? When it comes to preferred forms of entertainment, what individuals seek regarding potential mates, what tasks they are more likely to be responsible for within a relationship, how well they express themselves and overall sensitivity are women and men all that different than in decades past?

07. What are the effects of sleep deprivation on sexual arousal and function?

08. At some point in their lives women go through menopause. However, it seems most other animals are able to conceive and bear young throughout their lives. Are there any other species besides humans that also go through menopause?

09. Are there new STIs out there? Consider either new strains of chlamydia, gonorrhea, or syphilis that are resistant to conventional antibiotics or totally new types of STIs?