

Human Sexuality: Unit 2 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. Why do human females enter into puberty, and complete the process, earlier than males? What factors are involved? Do other species also differ due to gender in reaching biological maturity?
02. The age at which individuals reach puberty has significantly lowered in the last 150 years. What factors are involved? Are there consequences related to health and well-being?
03. What determines adult breast size in women and penis size in men? Do factors such as diet and nutrition play a role, or is it completely genetic?
04. Elaborate on any one of the complications associated with teen pregnancy. What are the effects during pregnancy as well as after the child is born? Discuss the effects on both mother and child when appropriate.
05. How old do you have to be in order to get married legally? Does it differ by gender? Compare different states within the United States as well as the United States compared to other countries.
06. It has been argued that legalization of same-sex marriage would lead to the denigration and destruction of the institution of marriage. Exactly how would that come about? How is it that divorce and cohabitation are not seen as a threat while actually getting married, but to someone of the same sex, is seen as undermining the institution of marriage?
07. What is the incidence rate of domestic abuse and violence for same-sex couples compared to heterosexual couples? What about other measures of instability such as affairs, breakups, divorce and so forth?
08. Have there been cultures that accepted and allowed for same-sex marriages in the past, or is this a completely modern concept? Consider also any culture that simply didn't specifically ban same-sex couples from cohabitating in any way.
09. Since the 1950s attitudes concerning oral sex have changed considerably in the United States. Most studies have found the frequency of these behaviors has increased. Are there any specific reasons for these changes?

10. When it comes to the transmission of STIs, are some forms of sexual behavior safer than others? Does gender play a role when it comes to particular practices?

11. In the past we really had no clear idea of how many people were gay, lesbian, or bisexual. It was generally not something people were willing to disclose. But people have been far more open about their sexual orientation in the last 35 years, especially in western societies such as the United States. So looking at research done within the last 35 years, what is the incidence of homosexuality and/or bisexuality in the United States? Is it stable (staying the same), increasing or decreasing?

12. When it comes to personal attraction have things really changed that much in modern times? Do people focus on different things when seeking a mate compared to times past? Are the differences due to gender still pretty much the same (what men look for / what women look for)? Are there different criteria based upon whether someone is considering a short-term or long-term relationship?