

Human Sexuality: Unit 3 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. Compare and contrast how men and women perceive certain aspects of a relationship and situations in which men and women tend to react differently. There are often different views as to what is important and who is right or wrong in particular situations. For example, one student suggested that women are generally more likely to get upset over breaking a date than are men. Is that actually the case? Do men and women differ as to what is a legitimate reason for breaking a date? What role does communication play in all this?

02. What are the top three most effective methods of communication in relationships?

03. What is the current human population of the earth? What percentage of that number is under the age of 30? What is the projected rate of growth for the next 20 years? The next 50? Explore different sources of information, as the estimates will vary from one source to the next.

04. What is the consensus regarding whether the earth will reach its maximum carrying capacity with respect to the human population in the near future as the population continues to increase? Will continued industrialization and increased rates of consumption in currently undeveloped regions further magnify the problems we're already seeing?

05. Besides condoms and vasectomies what other methods of male contraception are currently available? What methods are still under development? How long have some of those been under development? Note that there are a great number of products out there to enhance male sexual performance, but not nearly so many aimed at stemming the consequences.

06. In the last unit there was a question about the risks of teenage pregnancy. On the flip side, with many women delaying childbearing until after they've gotten an education and become established in their careers, what are the risks faced by women in their 40s? Discuss risks to both the woman herself and to her baby.

07. Discuss the possible causes for atypical sexual behaviors. As the majority of these behaviors do not appear to be biologically adaptive in any way, are they all learned behaviors caused by psychosocial factors? What are the possible psychosocial factors? Are there any common elements contributing to various different atypical behaviors? And are there ways to predict who might cross the line and commit a crime?

08. What's wrong with public nudity? In most cases if you walk around naked you'll get arrested or fined, usually on some type of indecent exposure law. What makes this indecent? We're all born naked. It's our natural state. Should we give every newborn a fine for the violation? And many have espoused the human form as a work of art in itself. It has inspired countless sculptures, paintings, and photographs. Movies, television programs, and music videos often gratuitously add nudity for no reason other than simply to do so, as it adds nothing to the plot or performance. So it's a big part of who we are, and a big part of the culture. So why can't you do your gardening naked, or sunbathe in the nude, without a fence? What would it matter if you drove naked? Why can't there be nude beaches, nude dance clubs and so forth? Granted certain actions while naked may be indecent, but is just being naked itself indecent? What do the laws actually state? How far can one go? Is a thong and two strips of electrical tape enough for anyone to be 'fully clothed' anywhere? Try to make sense out of all this and present a case for or against public nudity.

09. Does pornography reflect the prevailing norms regarding attitudes and sexual practices of a society or shape them? How much influence does pornography actually have on society?

10. Should prostitution be legalized? Compare various factors such as exploitation, physical abuse, and risk of STIs in places where prostitution is legal to those where it is not. Consider that legal prostitutes would have various protections under the law such as worker's compensation for injuries, health care insurance, unemployment benefits, social security and pensions.

11. What does and does not constitute sexual harassment? Where do you draw the line? Do you agree with any of the legal definitions of harassment? How would you define it?