

Assignment 2: Critical Response Paper

General Description: You are required to critically respond to an argument made in our textbook or one of the assigned articles. This can take the form of a general argument (e.g., culture, not biology, determines sexual interests) or the argument of a specific theorist/researcher discussed in the text (e.g., Kinsey, Freud).

This project is a group project. Each group will consist of 3-4 members. As a group, you will decide how the duties of this project are divided among the members. Each member will receive the same grade unless there are members that do not contribute to the project. If there are issues that arise within groups please bring them to my attention **before** the final papers are collected.

Guidelines: Use the following questions to help you critically respond to the argument:

1. Briefly discuss the argument. What is the point that the author is trying to get across?
2. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the authors' arguments? In other words, what does the author do well and what are the shortcomings of their argument? (at least one of each)
3. How does this particular argument engage with an outside source? Does this outside source help to strengthen the argument? Or does it weaken the argument?
4. Do you agree or disagree with the author? Explain your position.

Paper: The paper must be written in ASA format and 6-7 pages in length. You will need to use at least one outside resource. This resource must come from either a peer reviewed journal (options are listed below) or another academic source (not Wikipedia). It should be written at the collegiate level and proof read (this means that spelling and grammar counts towards your grade as well). To receive all of the possible points for this assignment you must address all points listed above. However, you should devote most of your discussion to addressing points two and three.

In class exercise: You will have an opportunity to work on your project during class. Check due date from syllabus and bring in a first draft of your paper (at least 2 pages in length, not including title or reference pages).

The draft is worth 5 points for the paper. **Be sure to save your rough draft as your proof of participation and turn it in with your final paper.**

Grade Breakdown: 35 points-paper; 5 points-in class exercises

Late Papers: Late papers are not accepted. You only need to turn in one paper per group.

Research Journals:

Use the can use the LAVC Library's web page to find articles (not a book review).

American Sociological Review	Journal of Sex and Marital Therapy
Archives of Sexual Behavior	Journal of Sex Education & Therapy
Gender & Society	Journal of Sex Research
Journal of Child Sexual Abuse	Journal of Social Issues
Journal of Homosexuality	Journal of the History of Sexuality
Journal of Lesbian Studies	Sex Roles
Journal of Marriage & Family	Sexuality and Disability
Journal of Psychology & Human Sexuality	

Here are examples of acceptable topics/arguments for this assignment:

Our culture, as opposed to our biology, molds and shapes our sexual interests (CH1)

Instead of classifying behavior into natural/unnatural categories, we should think in terms of sexual variation (CH 1)

Freud's stages of psychosexual development (CH 2)

Kinsey's scale (CH 2)

Basic feminist principles regarding sexuality (CH 2)

The relevancy of stereotypes regarding black sexuality (CH 2)

Gender (masculinity and femininity) is rooted in culture as opposed to biology (CH 5)

Gender is not related to sexual orientation (CH 5)

Children's sexual interests, such as masturbation or sex play, should never be labeled as bad (CH6)

Peer pressure, as opposed to the media or parental influence, is the single most powerful social influence on adolescents (CH 6)

Argue for or against one of the four types of sexuality education programs offered at schools (CH6)

Argue for or against one of the three models of sexual orientation (CH7)

In middle and late adulthood women become concerned about their sexual attractiveness while men become more concerned about their sexual performance (CH7)

The relevancy of stereotypes of aging (CH7)

Argue for or against the sexual strategies theory (CH 9)

Masturbation is an important means of learning about our bodies (CH9)

Fetishes to non-human objects are paraphillic behaviors (CH10)