

Throughout the course of the semester you will be given four assignments which involve reading and critically analyzing a research paper on a topic relevant to class. Each assignment is worth 75 points.

### **Research Analysis #1 – Due Tuesday, 10/2/12 – Submit via Dropbox by the start of class**

#### Requirements and Formatting

*Learning Objectives:* As a result of completing this research analysis, you will:

- Become more comfortable reading scientific research.
- Become familiar with different research methodologies involved in human sexuality research.
- Discuss one particular research study from the three options provided.
- Relate this research study to topics recently covered in class.
- Evaluate what further information could be researched related to this topic.

On the course D2L site, under Research Analysis #1, select one of the three posted articles and provide a thoughtful evaluation of that article. Your analysis should be 2 pages, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins. Please include your name at the top of the paper.

#### **Your analysis should (at minimum) include:**

- A brief description of the goal or purpose of the research.
- A brief summary of *how* the researchers completed the research (Methodology).
  - Who was studied?
  - How were they studied? Interview? Survey? Etc...
- A discussion of the results/conclusions of the study.
  - What did the results of the study show?
  - What does this research tell us about human sexuality in general?
  - How does this research relate to information we have talked about in class?
  - What information is missing or could be researched in the future?
- A personal reaction to the research.
  - Was the research interesting?
  - Did you learn something new?
  - Did you already know this? If so, where did you learn it?
  - How do you think you could use this information in the future?

Each and every section of this paper should be **written in your own words**. This means that you are not allowed to copy directly from the article, even if you use quotations and/or cite the material properly. Using direct statements from the article usually indicates that you did not understand what you were reading. If you are struggling with understanding part of the article, *please contact me!!!* The Dropbox has a plagiarism checker. If there is ANY plagiarism (copying directly from the article or any other source (e.g., Wikipedia)), you will receive a zero for this assignment.

Your paper will be graded according to these guidelines (for a total of 75 points):

**Content (37 points)**

- Does the paper contain the required information listed above?
- Did the writer adequately summarize and discuss the assigned reading?
- Did the writer contribute his or her own thoughts and arguments to the paper?
- Does the writer attempt to incorporate information learned in class?
- Is the personal reaction thoughtful and well-thought out?

**Organization (15 points)**

- Does the paper have an introduction that gives the reader a sense of the paper's focus?
- Does the paper have a conclusion that summarizes offers some final perspective on the topic?
- Is the paper ordered in a way that is logical, clear, and easy to follow?
- Does the paper flow, with clear and logical transitions between paragraphs?

**Grammar and style (15 points)**

- Are there grammatical or spelling problems?
- Is the writing style clear? Is word choice simple and straightforward? Are sentences cohesive?

**Required formatting (8 points)**

- Did the paper use proper formatting, as specified above in this document?