

LITERATURE SEARCH ASSIGNMENTS

The progress of any science, including biology and medicine, is dependent on the ability of scientists and doctors to communicate their ideas and research results amongst themselves and to the public at large. Scientists do this by printing their research data and their interpretation of the results of their experiments in periodical publications or journals. As a researcher, if you want to know more about previous research that has been performed on a particular topic then you would do what is called a “literature search”. That is, you would go to the library and look up journal articles which discussed work done by other individuals in your field. This is an extremely important process in science as it prevents researchers from duplicating each others work unnecessarily and allows for the formulation of integrated and more generalized hypotheses and theories based on established research findings. The assignments below are designed to give you the opportunity to do your own literature searches.

You are required to submit TWO separate literature search assignments during the semester. Each of these assignments will require you to look up information in scientific journals and books on some aspect of human sexuality that you find particularly interesting.

- **I RECOMMEND YOU COMPLETE THESE ASSIGNMENTS EARLY. I WILL ACCEPT THESE PAPERS ANYTIME BEFORE THE DUE DATE, BUT NOT AFTER THE DUE DATE.**
- **SEE THE SYLLABUS FOR THE PAPER DUE DATES**
- **EACH PAPER IS WORTH 100 POINTS.**
- **UNDER NO CONDITIONS WILL LATE LITERATURE SEARCH ASSIGNMENTS BE ACCEPTED.**

Each assignment is a **6 page paper** using **at least 5 different references** on some topic related to the biology of human sexuality. If you have questions about whether two or more articles are related, please feel free to come speak with me.

- **MORE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS ARE LISTED ON THE LAST PAGE. BE SURE TO INCLUDE ALL OF THESE. THE PAPER MUST BE DOUBLE SPACED WITH ONE INCH MARGINS.**

Feel free to write more than 6 pages if you need more space to express your thoughts and ideas. You may hand in your assignment anytime before the due date and you will be much better off completing these assignments as early as possible so you will not have to worry about them.

- **FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF SOME ACCEPTABLE TYPES OF REFERENCES:
MOST JOURNALS RELATED TO SEXOLOGY OR SEXUALITY ARE ACCEPTABLE.
OTHER SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS AND MAGAZINES –**

These periodicals may be found in the campus library, some local libraries or at some newsstands or bookstores. All of these may not be available at the SBCC campus library. Some of the journals are only available at the UCSB Davidson Library.

AmericanScientist#	Natural History ^
American Zoologist #	Nature *
BioScience #	New England Journal of Medicine *
Discover ^	Physician and Sportsmedicine #
Endocrinology *	Quarterly Review of Biology *
Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) *	Science *
Journal of Physiology *	Scientific American #

^ indicates a journal or magazine that is relatively easy to read and understand

indicates a journal of intermediate difficulty

* indicates a scholarly, scientific journal (greatest degree of difficulty for non-major biology students)

Any reputable scientific journal is acceptable

ARTICLES FROM SCIENCE NEWS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

MAGAZINES

You may use articles from any of the following magazines: Time, U.S. News and World Report National Geographic, Life or magazines of similar stature.

- **THE ARTICLES SHOULD COME FROM ANY ISSUE WITHIN THE LAST TEN YEARS.**

BOOKS

Most books on a topic related to the biology of human sexuality are acceptable. Try not to use only books, include journal and magazine articles in your references as well.

INTERNET OR WORLD WIDE WEB RESOURCES

No more than 3 of your references can come from the world wide web (two of them must be the old fashioned kind such as journals, magazines or books).

You may use world wide web sites for references, but choose your sites wisely as there is a lot of misinformation, wrong information and conflicting information on the internet. Try to stick to well-known government, corporate, nonprofit organization, and media or press sites. Bring me a hardcopy of the parts of the site you are thinking about using if you are not sure. **On the reference page, you must include the complete URL address for the site, the government agency, company, organization or individual who runs the site and the date on which you accessed the site. You must also include a hardcopy of the homepage of each site that you use when you turn in your paper.**

ENCYCLOPEDIA AND SIMILAR COMPEDIUMS OF INFORMATION ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE

The level of difficulty of the articles and the journal will be considered during my evaluation of your paper (I know some of them are quite difficult to comprehend). The articles must pertain to some aspect of human sexuality as it relates to biology. It may be molecular, cellular, physiological, organismal, environmental, ecological, behavioral, etc. The research presented in the articles may be clinical or research oriented. The articles must be multi-page articles and not simply a news or science report on the topic. Generally, articles have a title and the author's name at the beginning. If you find an article which particularly interests you in a journal or magazine which is not listed above, be sure to ask me if the journal or magazine would be acceptable before you begin your paper. Also, if you are not sure if an article you have chosen would be acceptable, check with me first, before you begin to write the paper.

- **SPEND ENOUGH TIME TO FIND A TOPIC THAT IS INTERESTING TO YOU PERSONALLY.**
These assignments won't benefit you if you just write about the first article you find. This shouldn't be like having your teeth pulled sans anesthesia.
- **DON'T WRITE ABOUT SOMETHING THAT YOU THINK IS BORING!**
Your literature search paper should have some sort of overlying theme. The topic may be broad or more narrowly defined depending on your interests and the information which you gather.

Here are some ideas (you do not have to focus on one of these, you may investigate any aspect of the biology of human sexuality which suits you):

- ◆ Research leading to the discovery of the first birth control pill
- ◆ How Chlamydia affects the female reproductive system
- ◆ Recent data on the positive and negative effects of estrogen replacement therapy (ERT) after menopause
- ◆ The discovery and mechanism of action of Viagra
- ◆ How is a male brain different from a female brain?
- ◆ The effects of alcohol on a developing embryo

- ◆ Trends in global HIV infection
- ◆ The process of fertilization
- ◆ Mechanisms of action and side effects of the various types of hormonal contraceptives
- ◆ The Human Genome Project
- ◆ Research on a specific genetically inherited disease
- ◆ The pros and cons of circumcision
- ◆ The evolution of human sexual behavior
- ◆ The development of new types of abortifacients
- ◆ Current research on the male “pill” and other birth control methods for men
- ◆ Assisted Reproduction
- ◆ Genetic links in Breast Cancer
- ◆ Health benefits of breast feeding for the child and mother
- ◆ Is there really a G-spot?

The paper should be a compilation of the information presented in the various references which you have chosen. For the first draft of the paper, you may want to simply write down your ideas and thoughts together with the information you find (kind of a stream of consciousness process). Later you can organize the ideas into some sort of logical order. Keep the paper organized, do not simply describe each article in a sequence. Try and integrate the information which you have gleaned from each reference together. While the paper must include information from the 5 references, feel free to include your own reactions to the articles and any thoughts or ideas which may have provoked you during your research. (This is not meant to be a paper for scientific publication, it's a way for you to learn more about a topic in which you are interested). For the purposes of the first paper, you do not have to reference each article independently, simply list them at the end of the paper on a REFERENCES page.

Concepts which you might want to include in your paper:

1. What were the major points presented in each article?
2. What questions were the scientists attempting to answer in each article?
3. Was a new discovery made or new technique developed?
4. Where there similar points, questions, or scientific methods discussed in the various references? Was there conflicting information in different references?
5. Were the articles written by the same group of scientists?
6. What did you find interesting or new and why in each of the articles?
7. Did you agree or disagree with the conclusions in the articles and why?
8. What new questions do you have now as a result of reading the articles?
9. Did the articles have any affect on you at a personal level (lifestyle changes, fears, personal interests, etc.)?

Following is a general description of how the overall paper should be organized:

- ◆ Your paper should **NOT** be submitted in any type of report cover.
 - ◆ The paper should be stapled (not paper clipped) in the upper left hand corner.
 - ◆ All pages should be plain white standard bond paper (eg. regular paper) with page numbers somewhere on the bottom of the page.
1. **TITLE PAGE** (cover page) including: (the precise format is up to you)
 - ◆ A title for your paper
 - ◆ Your name
 - ◆ Biomedical Science 136
 - ◆ The semester and year
 - ◆ (This page does not count as one of the required 6 pages)
 2. Start on the next page of the paper with a brief introduction to the topic.

3. The rest of the pages (at least 5.5) are the body of the paper. Note that pictures or graphics may be included in the paper, but the text must total 6 pages. If you copy, scan or use any picture, graphic or figure from any source (including your own) it must be cited in the body of the paper near the picture, graphic or figure. A conclusion is not required, but you may want to sum up the major ideas presented. The paper must be double spaced with one inch margins on all pages.
4. **REFERENCES PAGE** (last page of the document) including all of the following for each reference cited:
 - ◆ (This page does not count as one of the required 6 pages)For each reference you must include:
 - ◆ The complete title of each article
 - ◆ The name of the author(s) of each article
 - ◆ The name of the journal/magazine, date, volume number, and page numbers of the article
 - ◆ The specific internet address, name of organization and date which you accessed the site if it is on the World Wide Web.
 - ◆ If the reference is an internet site, then you must include a hardcopy print out of the **first page (homepage)** of the internet site with your paper
 - ◆ If the reference is a magazine/journal or book then you do **NOT** need to submit a hardcopy of the reference.