

2. Assignments

PSY410F.A Work & Family Roles
Diekman
Spring 2005

Interview Project **Due January 24, 2005**

This purpose of this project is to learn about work-family issues by combining information from a personal, anecdotal perspective (i.e., an interview with another person) and information from a scientific perspective (i.e., articles or books by social scientists).

What to do

On the basis of Orenstein's *Flux*, other class readings, or topics that will come later in the semester, compose a list of questions that relate to one or more topics that you'd like to develop into a semester-long project.

Select an individual who has some experience related to your topics. Interview this person for approximately 45-60 minutes about these topics (as well as other issues that might arise). Be sure to respect the confidentiality of the information that the person has provided. In your paper, do not mention the person by name unless he or she gives you permission to do so.

In a 5-page paper, synthesize the findings from your interview with any material that we have covered in class so far. Is this person's experience similar or different from the literature? Also, address the directions that you might possibly take with a project stemming from this interview. What more do you want to know? It is not necessary to include sources from outside of class in this paper, although you may if you wish.

Evaluation

Your paper will be graded according to how well you present the interview material to provide a perspective on certain issues related to work and family life, how well you incorporate this perspective with information or perspectives from class, and the extent to which you delineate interesting questions or topics for further study.

Your paper (and all papers in the class) should be written according to APA style (e.g., language, formatting, in-text citations, and references). You do not need an abstract or a running header. Copies of the APA manual are available in the reference section of King Library.

You do not need to turn in a transcript of the interview, but you should use direction quotations from the interviewee as evidence for this perspective.

Literature review and formal proposal
Due Feb. 22, 2005
PSY 410F.A Work & Family Roles
Dr. Diekman

The literature review and proposal will be a 5-7 page paper reviewing the existing literature about your project and outlining your plan to collect data (interviews, surveys, other information) for your proposed project.

1. What is your research question? Although most of you have identified a topic area, it's often helpful to write out in one sentence your hypotheses or the purpose of your project.
2. Examine the assigned materials that speak to your question (if there are any). Expand your search to include the other primary materials that the article cites; do library or internet research to find other resources on your topic. Please consult with library staff (including Bill Baker, who is the liaison for Psychology) and with course staff about how to find additional resources, or how to focus or expand your search. PSYCINFO will be the best place to start for most projects.
3. On the basis of your reading, you should revise or strengthen your hypothesis or research questions. It may be appropriate to focus, broaden, or change your research question, depending on the existing literature.
4. Formulate a plan for what you want to do to explore your hypotheses and research questions. Be sure that your plan follows clearly from the information that you gathered during your literature search. Also be sure that your method of collecting data is most suitable for your questions.
5. The sections of your paper should follow the standard sections of an APA manuscript: *Introduction* (overview of the existing literature, ending with your hypotheses); *Method* (what will you do?); *Expected Results* (talk briefly about what you expect to find, or what different patterns of responses are potentially important); *Discussion* (why will this activity help you answer your questions? what implications will your activity have?). You can include your survey or interview questions as an Appendix; if you opt not to do this, you should at least include some sample items or questions in the Method section.
6. Your paper should include at least 5 high-quality outside resources (e.g., articles from scientific, peer-reviewed journals; information from trustworthy internet sources). Your paper should be 5-7 pages of text, plus your references. The criteria outlined on the course rubrics will be used to evaluate your paper.

I encourage you to start as soon as possible (if you haven't already) in your literature search. When you are first becoming acquainted with a topic, it often takes a lot of reading to identify a few usable sources, or to narrow your topic so that it is manageable. It is best to allow a couple of weeks to locate sources, read and digest the material, rethink your ideas, and write a clear and coherent paper.

If you have questions about whether a source is "trustworthy" or not, please ask. Please feel free to talk to April or myself at any time about ideas, plans, etc.

Paper Assignment
PSY 410F – Spring 2005
Diekman

60 points (20% of final grade)
Rough draft due April 4 (in class)
Final draft due by May 2, 12:30 p.m. (hard copies only)

Your culminating task for the course is to write an interesting, concise, and clear paper that explains why you did your project, how you did the project, what you found, and what you think it means (i.e., introduction, method, results, and discussion). Even projects consisting of literature reviews, case studies, or art/media projects can fit into this general framework. Be sure to explain the existing knowledge about your question, and use this background to form an argument about why your project is necessary and interesting.

Please keep in mind that the best papers will have a clear statement of the problem, and all information presented in the paper will tie back to this problem or thesis statement in some way. In writing and revising, pay close attention to the criteria listed for excellent critical thinking: define the problem clearly, consider different perspectives, provide high-quality, convincing evidence, and arrive at sound conclusions. The criteria listed on the critical thinking and writing rubrics will be used to evaluate your final paper.

Your paper should include approximately 10-15 pages of text (tables, figures, and references do not count against this limit). Your paper should be in APA style. If you have questions about APA style, consult the APA Publication Manual (5th ed.), or ask Dr. Diekman.

Your paper should include at least 5-7 high-quality outside resources (e.g., articles from scientific, peer-reviewed journals; information from internet sources that you determine are trustworthy). These may or may not be the same sources you cited in the proposal; you should cite whatever sources best make the argument as it stands now.

You may use passages from your research proposal, but please do so with care. Some of what you wrote earlier is probably no longer relevant to your final paper.

Rough drafts

You will turn in two copies of the rough draft of your paper on April 4th, and another student will peer review this draft. On Friday, April 8, we will use class time for meetings of student pairs to discuss drafts.

If you would like, you can revise your paper according to the peer evaluation and turn in an optional second rough draft by Monday, April 18th. Dr. Diekman or April will comment on this draft.

If the rough draft you turn in is insufficient, points will be deducted from your final paper grade. It is in your best interest to turn in as complete a draft as you can, so that you have ample opportunity to revise it.

Peer evaluation

You will be assigned another student's paper to evaluate. In class on April 8th, student pairs will meet to discuss feedback. A copy of the peer evaluation will be submitted to Dr. Diekman, and this peer evaluation will be worth 15 points of your total grade. Details about peer evaluation will be available.