

Module 1 Writing Assignment: Guidelines for Preparing the Research Description and Outline

For your first writing assignment you have to prepare a Research Description and Outline for your research project. Your research project is to write a 12-15 page critical analysis of a research question related to the course. This will help you organize your research effort and keep you on track. Your Research Description and Outline should have the following components:

1. General subject matter for research (e.g. ,“Felony Drug Arrests)
2. Topic—the aspect of the subject your research involves (e.g., comparative rates of felony drug arrests based on race and ethnicity)
3. Research Question: Does a person’s race/ethnicity, social class, or gender affect his/her likelihood of getting arrested and/or convicted on felony drug charges?
4. Importance of research question
5. Thesis Statement (your thesis statement or hypothesis): What do you expect your research to reveal concerning your Research Question? For example: *Factors involving both race/ethnicity, social class, and gender can affect the likelihood of a person’s being arrested and/or convicted on felony drug charges.*
6. Outline Part I: Things that will be part of the content of the research paper. For example—
 - Demographic statistics on felony drug arrests for past 10-20 years
 - Rate of incarceration by race/ethnicity and social class status
 - Previous research done on the same or similar matter
 - Relevance of state and federal drug laws
 - Current and historical demographics regarding illegal drug use and trafficking

Module 2 Writing Assignment: Guidelines for Preparing an Annotated Bibliography

An annotated bibliography is a bibliography which contains a list of sources in MLA, APA style etc., each of which is accompanied by a summary and description of each source listed. These summaries and descriptions should reflect your opinion about how relevant and/or useful each source is to obtaining information about the research question at hand.

For your research project you are to pick a topic that is relevant to this course. After you identify your topic, you should develop the research question you are interested in exploring. The research question should not be too broad nor should it be so limited that it is almost impossible to acquire adequate sources. You need to identify 8 sources that provide information concerning your topic/research questions according to the following guidelines:

1. Three (3) scholarly articles (preferably from the College's library databases such as ProQuest or EBSCO—use full articles and not abstracts.
2. Three (3) non-scholarly articles (from newspapers, popular magazines, etc.)
3. One (1) book (either scholarly or non-scholarly)
4. One (1) film or video source (non-fiction or fiction)

Each annotation should be 8-12 lines long. They must be written in your own words—plagiarism of any kind will not be accepted. The bibliography probably should be approximately 3-4 pages long. At the conclusion of this project you should have a significant body of research that will equip you to write a 10-15 page paper on your topic.

Your bibliography should be alphabetized and the correct citation formats must be used. It is recommended that you go to the library and/or the Academic Support Center for help. Below is an example of an annotated bibliography done by a student in one of my courses. It is not absolutely perfect, but it will give you a very good idea concerning the proper way to proceed with this assignment.

Annotated Bibliography

Is There a Biological Basis for Same-Sex Sexual Orientation?

Allen, Laura S., and Roger A. Gorski. "Sexual orientation and the size of the anterior commissure in the human brain." *Proceeding of the National Academy of Science*. 89. 15 (1992): 7199- 7202. Web. 01 Sep. 2014. Scholarly article that provides information regarding a study on the size of the anterior commissure (AC) in the human brain and its correlation with sexual orientation conducted by the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, and Laboratory Neuroendocrinology at the University of California. In the study, the anterior commissure (AC) of 90 postmortem brains from homosexual men, heterosexual men, and heterosexual women were

examined. Findings showed that the midsagittal plane of the AC in gay men was 18% larger than in heterosexual women and 34% larger than in heterosexual men, suggesting that sexually dimorphic structures related to reproductive functions of the anterior commissure in homosexual men more closely resembled that of heterosexual women than that of heterosexual men in terms of area at the midsagittal plane. These outcomes indicate that factors operating early in development differentiate sexually dimorphic structures and functions of gay men's brain, including the AC and sexual orientation, supporting the idea that homosexuality has biological basis.

Bagemihl, Bruce. "Animals do it: Whether Humans Wish to Regard it as Natural Or

Unnatural, Homosexuality has always Occurred in the Animal Kingdom." *Alternatives Journal* 27.3 (2001): 36-7. *ProQuest*. Web. 4 Sep. 2014. Scholarly article that provides information regarding the argument about the naturalness of homosexuality. Bagemihl explains that there are two prevailing views regarding the debate. Individuals against the naturalness of homosexuality argue that same sex behaviour does not occur in animals and is therefore abnormal and unacceptable in humans. Conversely, proponents argue that homosexuality does occur in animals and is therefore natural and acceptable in humans. As American sex researcher and psychobiologist James D. Weinrich, the author supports the principle that homosexual behaviour is as natural as heterosexuality since he argues that they can both be found in nearly all animals, in almost all geographic areas and time periods, and in a wide variety of forms. Equally, he suggests that heterosexuality is as unnatural as homosexuality since it often displays social elaboration and cultural exaggeration, as well as characteristics stereotypically associated with gay relations such as instable interactions, non-reproduction, and promiscuity, supporting the idea that homosexuality holds natural and biological factors.

Brookey, Robert Alan. "Bio-Rhetoric, Background Beliefs and the Biology of Homosexuality." *Argumentation and Advocacy* 37.4 (2001): 171-83. *ProQuest*.

Web. 5 Sep. 2014. Scholarly article in which the author combines the philosophies of "bio-rhetoric" and "background beliefs" to provide a confrontational examination regarding the biological basis of sexual orientation. Brookey's analysis provides extensive material and information regarding a wide variety of principles and theories concerning homosexuality and both its social and genetic basis. This annotated bibliography focuses on material in support of the biological aspects of homosexuality, and in particular, on Simon LeVay's neuroendocrinology study, which suggests that differences in gay male's brain may account for their sexuality. LeVay's work is based on both the principle that the hypothalamus is central to the determination of sexual behavior, and on the "organizational/activation" theory of neuroendocrinology that proposes men's and women's brains are physically different, a difference related to hormone production. In his study, LeVay isolated a nucleus in the preoptic section of the hypothalamus, and he discovered not only that this area is smaller in women than it is in men, but also that this same region is smaller in homosexuals than in heterosexual men. He concluded that definite analogies between the brains of women and gay men are the causes of their similar sexual behavior, and therefore homosexuality.

Brookey, Robert Alan. *Reinventing the Male Homosexual : The Rhetoric and Power of*

the Gay Gene. Bloomington, IN, USA: Indiana University Press, 2002. *ProQuest February*. Web. 7 September 2014. E-Book that analyzes the theory suggesting that implementing biological

research on homosexuality is a feasible political strategy for the gay rights movement. The nature vs. nurture debate of homosexuality is treated as a "bio-rhetoric," a process of integrating scientific research into public arguments regarding gay rights. In the book, Brooker examines the biological studies on which the gay rights debate is based, and investigates how male homosexuality is hypothesized in the three main areas of the gay gene discourse: behavioral genetics, neuroendocrinology, and sociobiology or evolutionary psychology. In his work, the author examines a wide variety of theories and studies conducted by experts and well known scientists such as Franz Kallman, Simon LeVay, Dean Hamer, Richard Pillard, and James Weinrich, which demonstrates that there are factual biological components of homosexuality in all of the three principal fields encompassing the gay gene debate, supporting the idea that sexual orientation is an innate characteristic, and therefore, gay men and women should be legally protected against discrimination, and ensured equal rights.

Deem, Rich. "Genetic and Homosexuality: Are People Born Gay? The Biological Basis

for Sexual Orientation." *Godandscience.org*. Evidence For God. 25 Nov. 2013. Web. 30 Aug. 2014. Non-scholarly article that provides a general overview of the nature vs. nurture argument regarding sexual orientation. Deem predominately focuses on the "nature" aspect of the debate. Specifically, he deeply analyzes the central categories in which the evidences of biological basis for homosexuality fall: brain structure dissimilarities, hormonal exposure variances, and genetic differences. Research conducted by neuroscientist Simon LeVay confirm the existence of a key distinction between the brains of heterosexual and homosexual men. Studies indicates that a group of Interstitial Nuclei of the Anterior Hypothalamus (INAH), which controls sexual behavior, is more than twice the size in heterosexual men as in homosexuals. The hormonal theory of homosexuality advocates that different levels of exposure of male hormones in the fetus may also influence sexual orientation. Genetic studies conducted on homosexual siblings and twins by Dean Hamer, a Harvard trained researcher at the National Cancer Institute, reveal the existence of the "gay gene." Hamer's experiments and findings suggest that gay brothers shares a particular region of the X chromosome, called Xq28, at a higher rate than homosexuals share with their heterosexual siblings. These findings from neurological, hormonal, and genetic studies on sexual orientation demonstrate that homosexuality has biological basis, and therefore is not a choice.

"Evidence for Homosexuality Gene." *Science* 261.5119 (1993): 291. *ProQuest*. Web.

31Aug. 2014. Scholarly article that analyzes in depth Dean Hamer's genetic studies and research conducted during the 1990's observing homosexuality and its genetic basis. In his first study, Hamer recruited 76 gay men and successively traced out pedigrees for each in order to determine which other members of each family were homosexual. He found that 13.5% of the gay men's brothers were homosexual, which was a much higher rate than the 2% rate measured in the general population. These findings suggest that brothers of homosexuals are more likely to be gay than are men in the general population, supporting the idea that homosexuality has genetic basis. Hamer also found that homosexuality was more common among relatives on the maternal side than on the paternal side, which implied that for some gay men, the trait was passed through female members of the family. This is the reason why Hamer, to look for a possible "gay gene," started his examination on the X chromosome, the only chromosome inherited exclusively from the mother. Successively, after having examined the X chromosome of 40 pairs of homosexual brothers, Hamer found that 33 pairs shared a set of five markers located in the region designated Xq28, which translated into a 99.5% certainty that there was a gene in this area that predisposed a

male to become gay. Hamer's findings represent the very first concrete evidence of the genetic basis of homosexuality.

Holden, Constance. "Twin Study Links Genes to Homosexuality." *Science* 255.5040 (1992): 33. *ProQuest*. Web. 1 Sep. 2014. Scholarly article that provides information regarding a study of twins and adoptive brothers conducted by psychologist J. Michael Bailey of Northwestern University and Boston University psychiatrist Richard C. Pillard, which delivers evidence that genes play a strong role in the development of homosexuality. Particularly, three different groups of individuals were the objects of the study: identical twins, fraternal twins, and men with adoptive brothers. Bailey and Pillard interviewed and examined 161 gay men, and sent questionnaires to their twins or adoptive brothers. They found that 52 % of the identical twins, 22% of the fraternal twins, and 11% of the adoptive brothers were also homosexual. Based on these findings, Bailey and Pillard concluded that the genetic component of homosexuality was somewhere between 30% and 70%, and that identical twins were concordant for homosexuality about 50% of the time. Bailey and Pillard study suggested that there are real genetic component of homosexuality.

Jones, Stanton L. and Mark A. Yarhouse. *Homosexuality: The Use of Scientific Research in the Church's Moral Debate*. Downers Grove, IL, USA: InterVarsity Press, 2009. *Google Book Search*. Web. 03 Sep. 2014. E-Book in which Stanton Jones and Mark Yarhouse examine how scientific research has been used within church debates regarding homosexuality and its causes. In their work the authors provide a variety of theories and principles regarding the Church's debate over homosexual behavior. However, for the purpose of this annotated bibliography I will focus only on the material regarding homosexuality and its genetic basis. In the chapter of the book titled "What causes homosexuality," Jones and Yarhouse analyze the two major types of research in support of the genetic hypothesis of homosexuality: The "indirect genetic studies" and the "direct genetic studies." As an example of indirect genetic study, the authors observe the twin research conducted by Michael Bailey and Richard Pillard, which suggested that same sex attraction had genetic basis as it was shared by 52% of the male identical twins and 48% of the female identical twins under study. As far as the direct genetic studies, Jones and Yarhouse analyzes Dean Hamer's research on the X chromosome, which suggested that homosexuality had genetic basis as it was passed on from parents to children, specifically, from the mother to the child.

Murphy, Timothy F. *Ethics, Sexual Orientation, and Choices about Children*. Cambridge, MA, USA: MIT Press, 2012. *ProQuest February*. Web. 7 September 2014. E-Book entirely based on the abstract belief of the author that sexual orientation has biological basis, and that scientific progression would led to the development of pre-natal testing procedures to learn and influence the sexual orientation of one's child. Although still hypothetical, these pre-natal testing techniques may become actual possibilities for potential parents in the not-too-distant future, and Murphy's work provides a consistent guide to the arguments that have been formulated for and against such procedures. For the purpose of this annotated bibliography, I have selected only material concerning homosexuality and its genetic basis (Chapter 3), rather than information regarding the use of parental prenatal interventions to influence sexual orientation (which is the central argument discussed in the book). In the chapter of the book titled "A Genetic Study Raises the Stakes," the author analyzes Dean Hamer's genetic studies conducted in 1993 observing sexual orientation and male homosexuality. In their research, Hamer and his

colleagues identified a genetic region on the X chromosome that homosexual brothers shared to a level that suggested it could have affected their sexual orientation. The outcomes of the studies showed a pattern of male homosexuality that indicated substantial contributions from the gay men's mother. This pattern of heritability explained how male homosexuality could persevere across generations, as mothers would pass this genetic influence through the X chromosome directly to their sons and through their daughters to their grandsons.

Smith, Lydia. "Gay Gene Discovery Suggests Sexual Orientation Not a Choice."

ibtimes.co.uk. International Business Times. 14 Feb. 2014. Web. 30 Aug. 2014. Non-scholarly article that provides information regarding the existence of a male genome that may influence homosexuality. A recent study, conducted on 400 sets of twins by Doctor Michael Bailey from Northwestern University, identified two areas on the male genome that appear to be linked to homosexuality. The research has its foundations on Hamer's "gay gene theory," and it provides evidence that a gene for homosexuality seems to be maternally linked and found on the Xq28 stretch of the X chromosome. The study confirms Hamer's genetic theory on homosexuality as it provides evidence that this particular region of the X chromosome is likely to be shared by gay twin brothers than by brothers and their other siblings. In an interview with the author, Dr Bailey says: "Sexual orientation has nothing to do with choice. Our findings suggest there may be genes at play and we found evidence for two sets that affect whether a man is gay or straight."

Module 3 Writing Assignment: Guidelines for Writing

Your Research Paper (Outline Part II)

Your research paper should be developed according to the following format:

1. Introductory pages (1-2 pages)
 - Presentation and discussion of research topic and question
 - Importance of the area or field of inquiry
 - Thesis statement
2. Body (8-10 pages)
 - General background information such as historical context, relevant statistics, sociological significance, etc.
 - Information and evidence corresponding to each element of the thesis statement
 - Opposing or alternative views (if any) to each piece of information and evidence above presented. There are two approaches that can be taken

here. You can present all of the information that supports a certain point of view first (for example, all of your information which supports a correlation between race/ethnicity, social class, and/or gender and felony drug arrests and convictions) and then provide all of the opposing information together OR you can provide supporting and then opposing information point by point. Which approach you use is based on your writing skill and the nature of your research question.

- Analysis of the evidence and information on both sides

3. Conclusion (1-2 pages)

- Summary of any issues, evidence, and information presented.
- Questions to consider not addressed by information presented
- Your opinion on the research question and reevaluation of your thesis statement (if applicable) based on the critical analysis you have performed. Avoid using the first person.
- Implications for future study and/or social policy in this area.

