

HSP 3U1: PERSUASIVE RESEARCH ESSAY

One of the essential skills for the social sciences and humanities disciplines is essay writing. To demonstrate this skill, each student is to assume the role of a social scientist and write a 4-5 page (1000-1250 word) essay based on one of the topics provided. First, you must create a research question from the perspective of an anthropologist, sociologist, or psychologist. You must then do independent research to answer the question and defend your arguments.

The following is a checklist of structural elements that are required for final submission:

- typed, double spaced, 12 point font
- clear introduction which introduces your topic and provides a thesis
- a body of supporting evidence from research to support your thesis
- APA format for citations
- a clear discussion of the evidence which demonstrates your thinking and analysis of the research and results
- a clear conclusion, summarizing the research and your ideas, further clarifying why the topic is important in society
- a complete Reference list in APA format on a separate page with a minimum of 5 sources
- rough copy with corrections shown

BOTH A.P.A. citations AND a References list are absolutely required. Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and learning the proper citation methods protects you from plagiarizing. To understand how to do A.P.A. citations and the proper References format you may refer to materials provided to you by your teacher or consult with your teacher if you have questions. ***Your final copy will be submitted to turnitin.com. Failure to include citations AND provide a References page may also result in a mark of zero for this assignment for plagiarism.***

NOTE: You are welcome to choose a topic that is not found above but you must be able to find 3 different, quality sources about your topic and you must present it to your teacher for approval.

Possible Research Topics:

<p><u>cultural adaptation</u> <i>technology; immigration; social movements; etc.</i></p>	<p><u>cultural definitions of beauty</u> <i>men; women; critique of; where they come from</i></p>	<p><u>human evolution</u> <i>appearance & role of art; appearance & role of religion; future changes</i></p>
<p><u>family (relationships)</u> <i>impact of divorce on the previously married couple; impact of divorce on children; impact of different parenting styles on children; same-sex parents; impact of having children on a marriage; the role of grandparents;</i></p>	<p><u>mental illness - an analysis</u> <i>cannot describe an illness; discrimination; depiction in media and its effects on society; impact of parents/children with mental illness on the family</i></p>	<p><u>communication (body language; verbal; written)</u> <i>comparison of body language in different cultures; impact of body language on overall communication; role of slang; impact of technology on language; dying languages and its impact on cultural understanding</i></p>
<p><u>culture</u> <i>individualism and collectivism (a comparison of 2 cultures); a critical analysis; positive impacts and negative impacts; compare 2 cultures based on specific topic; "cancel culture"</i></p>	<p><u>language</u> <i>impact of technology on; the extinction of language & impacts on culture; role of slang; evolution & its causes; connection between language & thought</i></p>	<p><u>identity (cultural; gender; stage of life)</u> <i>cultural; gender; stage of life (adolescence; getting married; becoming a parent; mid-life; empty nest; menopause; grandparenting; old age; death); immigration; multi-ethnic families</i></p>
<p><u>anti-social behaviour</u> <i>causes and consequences; society's response; impact on society;</i></p>	<p><u>cultural appropriation</u> <i>cultural appreciation vs. cultural appropriation impacts of cultural appropriation</i></p>	<p><u>social influence</u> <i>causes and consequences of conformity; when is conformity good/bad; leadership; decision-making</i></p>
<p><u>the brain</u> <i>resilience; meditation; the teen brain; neuroplasticity; the reliability of memories; how people learn; the brain & reading; the brain & perception</i></p>	<p><u>propaganda</u> <i>modern forms; impacts on people</i></p>	<p><u>social institutions</u> <i>best models of education and their impact on society; the role of the family in society; impact of mental health care on society;</i></p>
<p><u>gaming</u> <i>impact on the youth brain; responsible for violent behaviour; positive influences on behaviour</i></p>	<p><u>social media</u> <i>impact on social movements (Arab Spring, Hong Kong v. China); self-esteem; "cancel culture"; impact on the brain</i></p>	<p><u>immigration</u> <i>impact on culture; impact on the family</i></p>
<p><u>nature and nurture (choose 1 topic)</u> <i>gender, intelligence, criminality, violence, etc.</i></p>	<p><u>criminal behaviour</u> <i>nature & nurture; causes; labelling; impact of imprisonment (social/psychological)</i></p>	<p><u>technology</u> <i>impact on the family; impact on culture</i></p>
<p><u>gender identity</u> <i>discrimination; depiction in media and its effects on society;</i></p>	<p><u>prejudice & discrimination</u> <i>age, sex, race, religion, socio-economic status; causes & consequences</i></p>	<p><u>funeral customs</u> <i>origins; comparison of 2 cultures; social/psychological benefits</i></p>
<p><u>social movements</u> <i>a critique of; characteristics for success</i></p>		