

Library Homework Assignment

HYPOTHESIS DEVELOPMENT AND LITERATURE SEARCHES

1. Generate a list of **at least 3** general questions about human nature you are interested in. Your list can include either very general topics (e.g. helping behavior) or very specific topics (e.g. why do women tend to go to the bathroom in pairs). To generate ideas, you might skim through psychology textbooks to refresh your memory from past classes. Textbooks are available in the library (ask a librarian) or in room 147 of Science Center (please do not remove books from the classroom). Alternatively, spend some time reflecting on social interactions and your own daily experiences. Type out those 3 ideas to turn in.
2. Choose **two** research topics from the 3 above and do a literature search using what we learned in our library session. For each topic, generate a list of at least 6 relevant psychological references you find, and attach the abstracts (print outs from computer databases are fine). Sort and **label** the abstracts by topic. The references should be relevant in some way to the topic and should be in English (unless you speak a different language also).
3. Based on your search above, decide which of the two topics seem most interesting to you and choose **ONE**. Based on the abstracts you have read and your interests, narrow your topic to a **specific testable hypothesis** (e.g. people will be more likely to help in an emergency if they are alone rather than in a group). Type out this hypothesis to turn in.
4. Conduct a new literature search on your hypothesis. Find at least **4 references** (*preferably journal articles as opposed to books or book chapters*) that are obviously relevant to your hypothesis. Carefully read those abstracts. Attach those abstracts and indicate the relevance to your hypothesis (handwritten comments on each abstract are fine).
5. At least one of the above articles should be in a journal held by Hanover Library either physically in the library or electronically via one of its subscription services. Find that one article, photocopy it (*attach the entire article to this assignment*) and skim it. Pay special attention to the abstract, introduction, and the beginning of the discussion section, which often reports an overview of the findings of the study. You may find an article that does multiple studies (in this case look to the “General Discussion” section).
6. Based on your limited readings above (the article and the abstracts), consider whether your original hypothesis is reasonable, or if it needs to be modified. Develop at least one new hypothesis on the basis of your readings. Type out your thoughts to turn in.

SAVE ALL YOUR IDEAS- I'D RECOMMEND A “RESEARCH NOTEBOOK”.
REMEMBER YOU WILL BE COMING UP WITH YOUR OWN RESEARCH
IDEA FOR THE GROUP PROJECT...IT ISN'T TOO EARLY TO BE BOUNCING
AROUND IDEAS WITH POTENTIAL GROUP MEMBERS.

**REMEMBER TO ATTACH THE APPROPRIATE ABSTRACTS AND
ARTICLE, AND TO CLEARLY LABEL EVERYTHING. THANK YOU!!**