

COMM 2110: CRITICAL ANALYSIS PAPER - INSTRUCTIONS & GUIDELINES

Goal of the assignment: The goal of this assignment is two-fold:

- (1) To give you the opportunity to critically review, analyze, and report your impressions of an article on interpersonal relationships typically found in popular media, and
- (2) To identify discrepancies, if any, between information generally presented in popular media versus the information presented in academic journals and books and reflect on the implications of these differences for relational experiences and outcomes

GUIDELINES

As you prepare to complete this assignment, it might help to follow a few simple guidelines:

- ✓ Read the assigned article at least 2 or 3 times, preferably on different days - this way, you can be sure that you have given yourself the best possible chance of understanding its content
- ✓ Take notes as you read along - that way, you will begin to have some idea of what your paper will be about
- ✓ Then, find the relevant chapter(s) in the book that deal with the topic discussed in the article and read it thoroughly - once again, it may help to make notes
- ✓ Compare the information in the article with the information you found on the topic in the textbook
- ✓ Consider these questions:
 - Do you agree with the contents of the article? Remember, you don't have to fully agree or disagree - you can agree with some parts and not others
 - Provide support for why you agree/disagree with the author
 - Is the information in the article consistent with the information in the text?
 - If yes, in what way? If not, why not?
 - If people took the information in the article seriously, what effect, if any, would it have on their interpersonal relationships?
 - Remember to tie it to information in the textbook
 - What advice/suggestions/recommendations would you give to the hundreds of thousands of people worldwide who rely on relationship advice from self-proclaimed experts?

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Due Date: 2/28/2008

Paper Length: 4 pages minimum (including a cover page)

Instructions for Formatting Cover Page:

- ✓ Running Head - top of the page, left-aligned, title of the article (ALL in CAPS)
- ✓ A Critical Analysis of the Article, 'Title of the Article' centered between the top and bottom and left & right margins
- ✓ The title of the article should be followed by your First and Last names
- ✓ Your institutional affiliation, 'Utah Valley State College' should appear on the line below your name
- ✓ All three pieces of information MUST be double-spaced

Acceptable Font: Times New Roman, 12-pt font

Margins: 1" on the top, bottom, and right; 1.25" on the left

Spacing: Double

Pagination: Your last name and page # must be provided in the page header and right-aligned

Credits: If you are using information that is not your own (including information from the textbook), you **MUST** give the appropriate citation of the source from which you took the information within the body of the text and on a separate 'References' page. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism and will result in a failing grade. Please be warned that ignorance is **NOT** an acceptable excuse. **When in doubt, ASK, do NOT guess!!**

NOTE: I will provide a brief overview of when and how to provide citations within the body of the text as well as how to format the references page in APA style. If you still have any questions or need additional instruction/assistance, please feel free to set up an appointment with me and I'll be glad to help in any way I can. Good luck!