

## Index Card Assignment #7: "Its not me, its you!"

**Due Date:** April 03, 2008

Survey 10 people (5 males and 5 females; friends and family members okay) and ask each of them what five factors, in their opinion, cause the most conflict in relationships? Record each of their responses on a piece of paper.

### **Assignment Instructions:**

Then, using the information from your interviews, do the following:

**On one side of the index card**, group your respondents' answers into "internal" versus "external" attributions. Internal attributions include all factors central to the partners in the relationship (e.g. personalities, attitudes) and external attributions would include all factors outside of the relationship (e.g. in-laws, friends, work).

**On the other side of the index card**, answer the following questions:

- Were there any observable gender differences? In other words, did males or females consistently cite certain factors more than members of the opposite sex?
- Among the factors identified in the survey, which one factor do you think has the most potential to end up causing the relationship to break up if partners don't resolve it? Give at least one reason to support your answer.

**Discussion:** We will discuss the origins of and strategies for managing constructive conflict in relationships as well as the implications of gender differences in conflict resolution strategies for relationship satisfaction.