

HDFS 3390 Research Methods (Fall 2019, Reifman)

JOURNAL ASSIGNMENT

Due Thursday, November 21

10 points possible

2 pages double-spaced

Submit by e-mail

Your assignment is to find a scientific research article pertaining to human development or family studies, and then respond to the instructions below. You can use PsycInfo or other online databases from the [TTU library website](#). The article must present an **original research study** and not merely summarize previous research. We will go over examples of appropriate articles in class.

You should first write an introductory paragraph listing the title, author(s), journal, and year of the publication (so that I can retrieve the article if necessary), and presenting a brief overview of the study (e.g., “The researchers sought to study toddlers’ cooperative play during free time, as observed by trained raters...”). Next, you should answer any **four** of the following questions (totally your choice), devoting a paragraph to each answer.

1. Is the study deductive (testing an existing theory and proposing hypotheses) or inductive (collecting data to help develop theories and hypotheses)? If the study is deductive, what theory (or “model” or “framework”) are the author(s) using? What are their hypotheses? Theories and hypotheses should appear in the Introduction section of the article. If the study is inductive, what theoretical ideas have the author(s) developed after looking at their data? These ideas should appear in the final section, the Discussion.

2. What do the authors say about how the present study will produce new knowledge beyond what we currently know from previous studies, and contribute to the research literature or to society?

3. What type of sampling method was used (e.g., SRS, systematic, cluster, convenience, snowball)? How representative do you believe the sample was of the relevant group in the population? If the sample was not totally representative, to whom can one generalize the findings?

4. What measurement mode(s) did the author(s) use (e.g., self-administered, phone, face-to-face, computerized)? Do you believe the mode(s) used were appropriate for the study’s purpose (e.g., if the authors studied a sensitive topic, did the mode provide privacy)?

5. Evaluate the quality of the measurement. Did the author(s) provide information on reliability and validity and, if so, what kinds? Did the author(s) take any steps to minimize false responses?

6. In the discussion, did the author(s) suggest any practical applications of their findings (e.g., how findings on dating couples’ relationship satisfaction could help improve premarital education)? If so, what did the author(s) propose?

7. Did the study appear ethically sound? Did the article say the study was approved by an IRB? Did the author(s) take steps to ensure voluntary participation, protection from harm, protection of privacy, etc.? Were there any aspects you thought were ethically questionable?

When taking exact passages of text from the article, please put them in quotation marks!