

ANTH 1000W Other People's Worlds

eHRAF Research Paper

Sample Topics

Cultural Behavior/Topic: Number of Spouses

Research Question: Is monogamy a cultural universal?

Article: Read [Monogamy Anchored in Our Genes?](#)

HRAF Documents: Read about polygynous and monogamous societies in the [Basic Guide to Cross-Cultural Research](#) and in the [Sexuality](#), [Gender](#), and [Dwellings](#) summaries in [Explaining Human Culture](#).

Cultural Behavior/Topic: Romantic Kissing

Research Question: Is romantic kissing a cultural universal?

Article: Read [Romantic or disgusting? Passionate kissing is not a human universal](#)

HRAF Documents: [Learn how to construct an eHRAF search on the topic of kissing](#) and see what additional ethnographic examples of kissing as a universal or non-universal you can find for yourself.

Cultural Behavior/Topic: Tattoos

Research Question: Do people from different cultures get tattoos for the same reasons?

Article: Read [Tattoos: The Ancient and Mysterious History](#)

HRAF Documents: Read ethnographic descriptions in [eHRAF World Cultures](#) of the reasons people get tattoos amongst the [Maori \(OZ04\)](#) and the [Central Thai \(AO07\)](#).

Selecting Your Topic

- Select any one topic of your choice from the following [Outline of Cultural Materials](#) (OCM) Subject Categories.
- Browse Cultures in [eHRAF World Cultures](#) to select any three cultures to research on your topic. Make sure that the three cultures have enough information available for you to write about.
- You must also use (and cite in your references cited page) information from the Culture Summary (also found in the Browse Cultures menu of eHRAF World Cultures) for each of the three cultures that you select, and include that information in your introduction.
- Additionally, you must also use (and cite in your references cited page) information about your topic from an anthropology encyclopedia, such as the *Encyclopedia of Cultural Anthropology*. Do not use a general encyclopedia, such as the *World Book Encyclopedia*.

Step-by-Step Process

- 1) Review Murdock's list of cultural universals
- 2) Select a cultural behavior/topic of interest
- 3) Find a news or journal article which has examined aspects of your topic
- 4) Find information about your topic from an anthropology encyclopedia
- 5) Develop a research question
- 6) Search three cultures in eHRAF World Cultures for ethnographic data related to the question
- 7) Compare and contrast the data to determine similarities and differences across cultures
- 8) Write your eHRAF research paper following the guidelines below

Guidelines for Writing Your eHRAF Research Paper

1. These guidelines are an addendum to your syllabus, and should be considered an integral part of your syllabus. Failure to follow these guidelines completely will lower the grade for your paper. Your paper will be graded based upon both content and style (format).
2. Papers should have a separate title page with your name, title of the paper, name of the course, course number, date, and name of the professor.
3. Papers must be a minimum of 9 pages not including your title page, and reference cited page(s).
4. Papers must be entirely typed, double-spaced, use Times New Roman font, on 12-point type (do not use smaller or larger point type), either printed one-sided or two-sided, with page numbers, and with one-inch margins on all four sides.
5. Papers need to be carefully spell-checked and then read over by you for grammatical errors. (Spell check, for example, will not change “and” when you meant to say “any”).
6. Do not use contractions (e.g., use “do not” instead of “don’t”).
7. Do not use Internet or text message spellings or grammar (e.g., “u r gr8”).
8. Except for an anthropology encyclopedia (see above), your paper must primarily use eHRAF World Cultures database by Human Relations Area Files (UConn Library website – go to Databases).
9. If relevant, your paper may state your opinion. But carefully indicate that it is your opinion, and give evidence to support your opinion. Also, review what the opposing opinion is, and why you believe it is not valid.
10. Your paper must be entirely your own work. You must use quotes and cite your sources, otherwise it will be considered plagiarized. However, you should not be extensively quoting the text. Use lengthy quotes sparingly.
11. Only cite references that are stated in your text. Exclude all references that you read, but you are not citing in your text.
12. You must have at least ten references cited in your references page(s).
13. The references in the Reference Cited page should appear as follows:

An article in a journal: Jaspers, William E. (2002) “Everything you wanted to know about nothing: but did not want to ask,” *Journal of Total Irrelevance*. 4(3):254-9.

A book: Jaspers, William E. and Sylvia Sidelman (2003) *The Complete Book about Nothing*. New York:
14. The paper is due on Friday, April 17. Please email your paper to matthew.longcore@uconn.edu.