Dr. Chelsea Reid

Research Proposal Paper Assignment
PSYC 423 Interpersonal Relationships

I'm interested in your ability to test questions about relationships through explicit and refined research studies. The paper will be a 7-10 page APA-style research proposal. You should use your article assignment and idea worksheet assignment as the topic for this paper. **Be sure to look at the supplemental resources as well as the assignment grading scales posted in OAKS. Please copy and paste the grading scales so they appear as the very last part of your submitted document.**

Structure of your paper:

- The paper must have a title page, abstract, and the following six sections: (1) an introduction; (2) a Method section that is a description of your proposed experiment; (3) an expected Results section; (4) a Discussion section; (5) a Reference page; and (6) Appendices. You paper must adhere to APA Style (7th edition).

- The **literature review**, or introduction, should be a discussion of relevant theory and research and development/justification of one or more hypotheses. This section will largely be written in past tense. For this paper it is not acceptable to rely on summaries of articles in other articles (get copies of all articles that you cite). You should cite 8 sources (6 of which must be empirical). At the end of your introduction, you should have an Overview and Hypothesis(es) subsection where you summarize the rationale for your study and specifically present your hypthesis(es). You should use the appropriate statistics language (e.g., correlation, main effect, interaction).

- Your **Method** section should include all details of your proposed procedure. You should pretend that you're actually planning to run the study. Keep in mind all the principles of good research you've learned in the past. Your proposed experiment will be written largely in future tense. You should include:
  - Who your participants will be and how you will recruit them
  - What procedure your participants will experience
  - What your IVs/predictors and DVs/outcomes are and how they will be operationally defined
  - A design statement, if your study has at least two IVs
  - What exact questionnaires or items your participants will respond to (you can make up one or two example items or include example items from an existing scale; make sure to ask me if I have a copy of standard scales for attachment styles, commitment, trust, and so on).

- Your **Results** section should include a discussion of how your data will be analyzed (e.g., manipulation checks, type of analysis to be employed to directly test each hypothesis and what pattern of result would provide support for each hypothesis). This section may be brief.

- Your **Discussion** section should include your evaluation of the proposed research, including links to past research, applications/implications, strengths and limitations, and ideas for future research.

- The **Reference** page will list all sources cited in your paper. Your paper should contain at least 8 sources. At least 6 of these sources should be empirical and peer-reviewed. These references will serve as the foundation of your introduction, but you may also cite your sources (or additional sources) in your Method and Discussion sections, as applicable.

- You may include (i.e., OPTIONAL) **Appendices** after the figure page; instructions for participants or questionnaires may be included in this section. Label them Appendix A and so on, and refer to them in your text (see Appendix A).