

II. Essay Topic/Content Expectations for the Review Essay.

A. Carefully follow these steps:

1. Read Dr. LeVay's book *Gay, Straight and the Reasons Why: The Science of Sexual Orientation 2nd Edition*. You will need to be familiar with the major concepts and the empirical research reviewed in LeVay.
2. You will be using Google Scholar for this assignment. Read the entry in Wikipedia about "Google Scholar". This entry will help you understand how Google Scholar works: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_Scholar. Read this entry *before* conducting a search in Google Scholar.
3. If you are logged into your SFSU account, you will be able to access full articles for free from your computer at home, as well as on campus. Here are instructions for on and off campus access to library materials:
<http://www.library.sfsu.edu/services/accounts/index.html>
4. Log into the SFSU Library using your student name, number and password. Go to the following SFSU Library page:
<http://www.library.sfsu.edu/find/dbs/dbselector.php>. Under the heading "General Interest Databases," click on "Google Scholar." Accessing Google Scholar from the SFSU library will enable Google Scholar to let you know if the SFSU Library has access to any given article you might find in Google Scholar. You should not have to pay for access to articles.
5. Use Google Scholar and locate a single research article on the topic published in the last 10 years. The article you locate must be based on scientific research, not an opinion or propaganda. We strongly urge you to locate an article in one of the two leading journals in the field of human sexuality: *The Journal of Sex Research* or the *Archives of Sexual Behavior*. You can use other journals, but you must get approval from the professor to do so.
6. Choose a research article that assists you in answering the essay prompt (see Section B below)

B. Essay Topic & Personal Reflection

Based on the recent review of the scientific literature by Dr. LeVay, as well as one primary research article you locate using Google Scholar, *develop a plausible scientific explanation accounting for the development of diverse sexual orientations in humans*. The essay should provide a plausible scientific explanation for the development of varying sexual orientation(s) in humans in light of the scientific evidence. The scientific explanation should be able to account for heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual and asexual orientations.

The essay should consider the following kinds of questions:

- ❖ What factors seem most important in the development of sexual orientation(s)?
- ❖ Based on the evidence, are there differences in the development of sexual orientation for males and females?
- ❖ How would an evolutionary psychologist, an evolutionary biologist or a sociobiologist account for the development of varying sexual orientation(s) among humans?
- ❖ What can we learn about sexual orientation based on research on other animals including other higher primates?
- ❖ What various kinds of scientific evidence exist that help us to understand the development of diverse sexual orientation(s)?
- ❖ What factors might explain the persistence of different sexual orientations throughout evolutionary history?

1. Overview

Write the essay as if you were writing to someone who is literate, but who has never heard the essay prompt or read the book or the article, and you want to explain how the concepts/evidence would help them understand sexual orientation:

Make sure to use a clear, focused, and well-developed thesis statement to organize the essay. One can read up on thesis statements here:

<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/composition/thesis.htm>

2. Application of Course Concepts

a). Compare and contrast the perspective of the various scientific explanations reviewed by Dr. LeVay with one another and with perspectives in the primary research article you have located.

b). Apply theoretical perspectives covered in readings, research talks and documentaries that would help illuminate the scientific issues.

III. Essay Format Guidelines:

A. Length: 5 pages give or take ¼ page (no longer, no shorter) **not including the references/bibliography page**. Use 12 point Times New Roman font. Use standard 1.25 margins (In Microsoft Word, Go to File, Page Set Up to set margins).

B. Thesis and Introduction: A clear, focused and well-developed thesis statement must appear in the introductory paragraph. Please underline the thesis statement.

All work must be typewritten (Size 12 point font: Times New Roman), double-spaced with 1.25-inch margins. Use standard indentation of three or five spaces. Please write in essay form. Begin the essay in an inviting, enticing, perhaps provocative, way: provide an interesting quotation, begin with a startling statistic, ask a provocative question, recount a story, or tell a joke pertinent to your topic. Then move toward a thesis or a controlling statement. The thesis should provide a framework for the entire essay. In addition, the introductory paragraph should briefly state what the essay will cover and suggest a tone for the paper. You can read about thesis statements on-line at *The Guide to Grammar and Writing* website: <http://webster.commnet.edu/grammar/index.htm>.

C. Paragraph and Sentence Style

Each paragraph within the essay should possess a topic sentence. The topic sentence links the paragraph to your paper thesis and reinforces the thesis of the essay. One should accompany the topic sentence of each paragraph with at least five sentences illustrating and elaborating upon your topic sentence. Effective paragraphs usually consist of at least five solid sentences. Please make smooth transitions between paragraphs. One can locate information about transitional sentences and phrases at the *The Guide to Grammar and Writing* website: <http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/>

Please write in gender inclusive language (for example: use ‘human’ instead of ‘man’).

IV. Citation Expectations

Use accurate and extensive citation (5 per page/25 overall are required). We do not mean five quotations, but rather five citations (on average) per page. Please make sure you understand the distinction between citation and quotation as they are not the same.

Please use the Chicago Manual of Style or the APA citation format common to sociology, psychology and human sexuality studies. You can choose either style, but not others. I recommend the Chicago style given its simplicity, ease of use, and widespread use in sexuality research. One can locate the rules for and examples of each style at the following website: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

If one follows the Chicago style, one simply includes the following information at end of the sentence: (author’s last name, year of publication, colon, two spaces, and the page number).

For example:

Laws intended to strip women of autonomy and control over their own bodies proliferated with the rise of the patriarchal states (Carson 1991: 136). Notice, this is not

a direct quotation, but rather a paraphrase of Carson's point. This citation prevents plagiarism as well as gives credit to Carson for the ideas and evidence.

Please do not use extensive quotation. Paraphrase quotations. If you must use a quotation, because you cannot accurately rephrase the quote without plagiarizing, follow the quote with the author's name, a comma, the year of publication, a colon, two spaces, and the page number, all in parenthesis, same as above. However, one also provides quotation marks around the quoted materials.

The essay must provide a references page that includes the assigned book and one primary research article. No other references are needed for this paper. The reference page does not count as part of the minimum number of pages for the essay.

V. Major Check List: Major Compositional And Organizational Concerns. Students will lose at least 10pts for each one of these six criteria if missing or undeveloped:

1. ___ Does the introductory paragraph use an easily identifiable and well-developed thesis statement? Please refresh your knowledge about using a thesis statement at: <http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/composition/thesis.htm>
2. ___ Does the essay contain the required number of citations (25 total or 5 per page on average)? Providing this citation prevents plagiarism and keeps the essay closely knit to course readings.
3. ___ Do most paragraphs use clear *topic sentences* linking the paragraph to the thesis statement?
4. ___ Does the essay make extensive use of empirical evidence (quantitative or qualitative) from multiple research sources?
5. ___ Does the essay use a *transitional sentence* or *transitional phrase* between every paragraph? Such transitions enable smooth and logical flow across paragraphs. See <http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/transitions.htm> for assistance with transitional words, phrases and sentences.
6. ___ Does the essay contains the required number of pages within ¼ page? The References Page should be Page #6.

VII. Minor Check List: Students will lose 2pts each for failing to abide by each of these twelve criteria:

1. ___ Did you underline the thesis statement and make sure it's in the first paragraph?
2. ___ Does the essay open with an enticing and inviting quotation, question, observation, or fact?
3. ___ Does the paper use a 1.25 inch margin (standard) on all sides of every page?
4. ___ Does a page number appear on every page of the essay?
5. ___ Do most paragraphs consist of at least five sentences, and rarely more than eight?
6. ___ Does the essay *italicize* (not underline or quote) book/journal/website titles?
7. ___ Does the essay include a well-developed conclusion paragraph?
8. ___ Does the essay indent each new paragraph (3 or 5 spaces)?
9. ___ Does the essay avoid skipping lines between paragraphs?

10. ____ Does the essay use 12 point font, Times New Roman style, and double spacing?
11. ____ Does the essay use block quote (indent all text 5 spaces on both right and left margins and single space the type) for quotations extending three or more lines?
12. ____ Do not use report covers or title pages. Simple print your full name and student ID on the top right of page 1 of the essay.