

# Assignment 2: Research Question and Annotated Bibliography

**Credit Weight:** 20% of the course grade

**Length:** approximately 1000 words

**Due Date:** upon completion of Unit 5

If needed, continue the discussion with your tutor about various possible research topics and questions (see Assignment 1: Oral Review, Review Question 4). Pay particular attention to pages 68–85 in Kirby, Greaves, and Reid to help you decide on your research question. After you have chosen it, prepare an essay that accomplishes the following objectives:

- 1. *Explain what are you interested in researching, and why.***
  - a. Explain your general focus.
  - b. Identify your specific question.
  - c. Give reasons for your interest in this question.

Your question should be broad enough to elicit new and interesting knowledge for yourself. For instance, if you already know that women employees in the company you work for are segregated into lower paying jobs, a question about gender difference in employment level in your organization would be neither new nor interesting. It might also be too narrowly defined.

On the other hand, your question should not be too broad. For instance, asking about the theory and the consequences of patriarchy in south Asia could require years of time and vast resources! Make sure that your question can be addressed within the confines of your time, resources, and assigned word count. Your tutor can help you to refine your question.

**2. Show how your research is feminist.**

See Kirsch's suggestions in Chapter 1 to remind you of the identifiable parameters of feminist research. Ensure that your research is non-sexist (see Eichler, 1991—one of your course texts).

**3. Compile feminist references—an annotated bibliography—that will support your research.** Keep in mind that you will be using [American Psychological Association \(APA\)](#) style to list and cite your sources.

- a. Your bibliography should include between four and seven scholarly articles or books that relate to your topic.
- b. List the references in alphabetical order by author.
- c. After each reference, add a few sentences—an annotation—that explain how you think this source will help you develop an answer to your research question. See Chapter 6 of Kirby, Greaves, and Reid for tips on how to search for relevant literature.

Please pay particular attention to the following aspects of this assignment. These will be evaluated by your tutor:

- attention to principles of feminist research;
- scope (not too broad or narrow) and suitability of the question (can it be answered through data collection);
- thoroughness and clarity of the annotated bibliography; and
- adherence to proper academic standards and referencing.