**HHS 4U/C - Culminating Assignment**

**Independent Research Report (IRP)**

One of the main course expectations for the Gr. 12 Families in Canada course is understanding and conducting social science research.  As a result, the culminating assignment for this course requires that the students conduct an independent social science research report.  This assignment is divided into five phases and is worth is 10% of your final grade in HHS 4U/C.  Ultimately, you will be required to analyze the results of your field research and report on how those findings relate to your stated hypothesis.  You will also be challenged here to integrate the research you conducted in phase two of the IRP process.  **This final report will vary in length but should at minimum be 7-8 pages, excluding title page, works cited and appendices.**

**Format:**

Each field research report should follow this format.  Use the sub-headings indicated here in your own submission.

1. **Title Page** - Create a properly formatted title page for your submission.
2. **Introduction** **-** This section should be written in a concise paragraph.

* Provide a description of the sociological issue you have chosen to study.
* Indicate the research questions that you initially posed on your subject.
* Define any key terms that are relevant to the understanding of your research report.
* State your hypothesis.

1. **Secondary Research Report** **-**

In this section you are presenting the background research that you conducted that helps defend your hypothesis.  You must properly cite the key points you present here using APA style referencing.  It is possible that you will need to further your research in order to justify your study.  This means going back to the library to help find evidence that supports your hypothesis.  This section should be written in paragraph form.

1. **Methodology** **-** In this section you are to write a paragraph that identifies three things:
   * **Sample Group**- Describe the demographic breakdown of your sample group (i.e. the people that you studied).  This should be as specific as possible.
   * **Instruments**- Describe the tools used to conduct your field research (i.e. Survey, participant observation, questionnaire, interview).  You will be required to attach all completed copies of your instruments in the appendix of this report.
   * **Procedure**- Describe the procedures used by you to conduct your field research.
2. **Results** **-**

This section outlines the statistical analysis of your results.  **\*\*Important Note\*\* Do not present opinions and personal interpretation here; instead simply present the facts from your research**.  It is here where you will tabulate the results of your findings in a systematic way - this means that you should include charts and graphs of data to accompany and support the report style description of your findings. Bar graphs, pie charts, line graphs, tables are all acceptable. Make sure that you include a description of each chart, table or graph in your paper. You should use current technology to graphically display your findings in this part of your report.

**Suggestions for Statistical Analysis:**

* Group data according to commonalities.  For example, you may wish to group your surveys into male and female responses OR employed women and non-employed women. You may group your data more than once.  For example, you may first group your data by sex, then by age and then by occupation.  After data has been categorized you will then need to look for trends, similarities and differences within the groups and between groups. At this point you will just report the trends, similarities and differences. You are not to make any generalizations.
* When examining the data you may need to calculate certain statistics that will allow you to better report your data.  Mean (average), median (the middle ranking) and mode (the most frequent response) are the most commonly used statistics.  You will also find it beneficial to calculate percentages to report your data. Rather than saying that 12 out of 24 people responded in a certain way it is much better to report that 50% did. If you are unsure how to calculate any of these statistics please ask the teacher for assistance.
* When summarizing the results for open-ended questions, you will need to identify major themes.  Different coloured highlighting pens may help you to organize your information.  A rule of thumb is that if three people mention it independently, it is worth reporting.

1. **Discussion** **-**

This section constitutes the major portion of the research report and will demonstrate your level of understanding of the research you have just completed.  It should be written in paragraph form.  It must explain the correlation between your “Review of Literature” information and the “Primary Research” findings. It should include an analysis, interpretation and evaluation of the data collected in your review of the literature and primary research phases. It should discuss opposing points of view, discrepancies in the study results and suggest possible explanations. In this stage you need to be able to offer explanations to support your conclusions. Are your findings consistent with those other researchers?  If not, why do you think this is so (e.g., research design, sample size, type of sample etc.)?

In the previous section of this outline you began to analyze your data.  In this final section you will do four things:

* Summarize your findings.
* Report on the trends, similarities, and differences etc. identified during your research. You may wish to include quotations at this time.
* Apply what you learned about your topic when doing your Review of the Literature to the findings of your primary research (your surveys/questionnaires).
* Remember to use APA referencing style when referring to research conducted by others.

Clearly identify what are the implications of your findings.  Why is this information important? Relate your findings back to your original purpose. What does it all mean? Suggest implications for those who study the family, the government, schools, social service agencies etc.

Include a discussion of the limitations of your study. Identify the problems with your research design and sampling technique (e.g., sample too small, not a random sample, only females responded etc.) Be sure to include recommendations for further study of those aspects of the topic, which you were unable to investigate. You need to make suggestions on how changes or improvements could be made to your report if you were to start all over again.

1. **References** **-** Include on a separate sheet of paper using APA style the sources of your secondary research used in this final report.
2. **Appendix** - Attach the completed copies of your field research instruments (i.e. Surveys, etc.)