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**PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE 095C**  
**TAP: Debunking the Myths of Adolescence**  
**Fall 2016**

**Paper Assignment #1**

**Due Date: Thursday 10/27 (in class)**

The goal of this assignment is for you to reflect on (a) the way that mainstream media outlets represent and report on scientific research, and (b) the similarities and dissimilarities between popular and scholarly sources of information.

As with all assignments in this course, you should use 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spacing, and 1 inch margins on all sides (top, bottom, left, and right).

Select **ONE** of the three articles listed below. All are available as PDFs on Blackboard. (Click on “Course Materials”, then “Assignments”, then “Paper 1”.

- Allen, J. P., Uchino, B. N., & Hafen, C. A. (2015). Running with the pack: Teen peer-relationship qualities as predictors of adult physical health. *Psychological Science, 26*(10), 1574-83. doi:10.1177/0956797615594118
- Lindberg, L., Santelli, J., & Desai, S. (2016). Understanding the decline in adolescent fertility in the United States, 2007-2012. *The Journal of Adolescent Health: Official Publication of the Society for Adolescent Medicine*. doi:10.1016/j.jadohealth.2016.06.024
- Sherman, L. E., Payton, A. A., Hernandez, L. M., Greenfield, P. M., & Dapretto, M. (2016). The power of the like in adolescence: Effects of peer influence on neural and behavioral responses to social media. *Psychological Science, 27*(7), 1027-35. doi:10.1177/0956797616645673

First, read the article of your choice. (You MUST choose one of the three articles listed above).

Second, find **three news articles** that reported on that scientific journal article. You may search for these news articles anyway you wish; we will discuss some specific strategies in class. Please find three news articles (online articles are fine) from well-known, reputable news sources (e.g., major newspapers such as *New York Times* or *USA Today*, websites of major news networks such as CNN or NPR, major magazines such as *Wired* or *The Atlantic*, or well-known journalism websites such as Huffington Post or Gawker Media). Please avoid personal blog posts or University press releases about the article. I have personally searched for mainstream news coverage of each of these three articles – I know it is out there!

Third, write a 3-4 page essay (see formatting instructions above). The goal of your essay is to compare and contrast the scientific journal article and the news coverage of the article.

Your essay should have the following components:

1. An introductory paragraph, in which you briefly summarize the scientific journal article.
2. A discussion of the news coverage that you read and how it relates to the scientific journal article. Compare and contrast the content (what the authors write about), writing style (how they write), purpose (what the authors' goal seems to be), and audience (who the writer seems to be writing for). In what ways are the two types of sources similar, and in what ways do they diverge? If there are aspects of the articles besides content, writing style, purpose, and audience that you think are important, please feel free to discuss them as well.

As you address these questions, you may be tempted to answer the questions I listed above three times – once for each news article that you read. Instead, your goal should be to **synthesize** the three news articles rather than addressing them one by one. In other words, **discuss the patterns that you see across your sources**. What similarities and differences do you see across the three news articles?

3. A concluding paragraph in which you pose a “take home message” for the reader.
4. On a separate page at the end of your paper, include an APA Style references page. The word “References” should be centered at the top of the page. Then, list citations for your four sources alphabetically by first author. To cite the scholarly article, simply copy and paste the citation listed above. To cite the magazine articles, please use the following format:

**Online magazine article:**

Choi, C. (2016, September). Chipotle has a new plan to convince customers its food is safe. *Time Magazine*. Retrieved from <http://time.com/4502592/chipotle-safe-food-ads/?xid=homepage>

**Online newspaper article:**

Bakalar, N. (2016, September 19). Hawaiian crows join tool users club. *New York Times*. Retrieved from [http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/20/science/hawaiian-crows-use-tools.html?rref=collection%2Fsectioncollection%2Fscience&action=click&contentCollection=science&region=stream&module=stream\\_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=8&pgtype=sectionfront](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/20/science/hawaiian-crows-use-tools.html?rref=collection%2Fsectioncollection%2Fscience&action=click&contentCollection=science&region=stream&module=stream_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=8&pgtype=sectionfront)

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