

**Format Requirements**

- 12 Point Font
- Double-spaced
- 1" margins
- Minimum 650 words

**Instructions**

Welcome to your first journal topic! There are so many fun and interesting facets of our sexuality that we will cover this semester, and we will spend considerable time evaluating how these many facets relate to ourselves and the world around us. In your first journal topic you are going to evaluate your attitudes on a variety of current events and issues that we will be discussing this semester. Keep in mind that these are not “yes or no” questions; you will be scored on your ability to clearly express yourself in writing and follow instructions. Be sure to respond to at least 3 of them in your entry.

**Questions**

1. In June 2013 the U.S. Supreme Court overturned a crucial component of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), extending many federal benefits to married same-sex couples across the U.S. Do you believe that same-sex couples in the U.S. should be given equal protections under the law?
2. In California a bill recently passed which allows transgender youth and adolescents to choose which bathrooms to use and which gender sports they wish to participate in. Do you support this bill?
3. Are men from Mars and women from Venus?
4. Should children and adolescents have access to comprehensive sex education, contraceptives, and other birth control options with or without parental consent?
5. If you are sexually active, do you practice healthy sexual choices? Have you always?
6. Who is at the greatest risk for contracting sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV?
7. Do you think that a person can be addicted to sex? Can a person have too much sex?

**Penalties**

Students that submit a journal that does not follow the instructions will be earn ZERO credit.

## Journal Scoring Rubric

For each journal topic, you will earn points using the rubric below.

	5 points	4 points	3 points	2 points	1 point
<b>Clear Expression of Ideas</b>	Less than 5 spelling or grammar errors. Several ideas are clearly AND logically explained	More than 5 spelling or grammar errors. Several ideas are clearly AND logically explained	More than 5 spelling or grammar errors. Several ideas are clearly OR logically explained	More than 5 spelling or grammar errors. Several ideas are written but lacking in clarity OR logic	More than 5 spelling or grammar errors. Several ideas are written but lacking in clarity AND logic
<b>Critical Thinking and Writing Skills</b>	Demonstrates <u>strong</u> critical thinking skills	Demonstrates <u>good</u> critical thinking skills	Demonstrates <u>average</u> critical thinking skills	Demonstrates weak critical thinking skills	Demonstrates weak critical thinking skills

Examples of Strong **Critical Thinking and Writing Skills** include but are not limited to:

- Analyzes issues from multiple perspectives
- Appropriately cites sources when necessary
- Evaluates research
- Employs problem solving logic
- Evaluates credibility of information, including its origins
- Engages in introspective analysis of issues

Examples of Weak **Critical Thinking and Writing Skills** include but are not limited to:

- Responds from opinion only
- Does not analyze research or sources
- Analyzes issues at a superficial, cursory level
- Leaves unresolved, unanswered questions
- Lacks logic