

Abstract Submission Template

An abstract submission should contain the following sections:

- **Applicant**
- **Mentor**
- **Field**
- **Presentation Type**
- **Title of Research Presentation**
- **One Sentence Description (no more than 25 words)**
- **Abstract**
- **Word Count**

Abstract Submission Example

Applicant:

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Mentor:

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Field: Psychology

Presentation Type:

- ☐ Individual Presentation
- ☐ Small Group Presentation (2 students, one proposal per team)
- ☐ Large Group Presentation (3 or more students, one proposal per team).
- ☒ Poster Presentation
- ☐ Performance Presentation

Title of Research Presentation:

Potential Mate Selection: Do Opposites Attract?

One Sentence Description (no more than 25 words):

Do opposites attract? Two different surveys looked at personality traits (extraversion and openness) and found that most people prefer a mate with similar traits.

Abstract:

Word Count: 230

Do people seek potential mates who share their personality traits, or do they seek their opposites? Two different studies conducted on community college students found that similar personality traits attract instead of opposites. Each study focused on a specific trait from Costa and McCrae's (1992) Big 5: extraversion (N = 43) and openness (N = 50), and asked participants to rate their own personalities, as well as that of their ideal mate. The extraversion study measured that trait with a single five level ordinal item.

The openness study used items from the *Ten Item Personality Inventory* (Gosling, Rentfrow & Swann, 2003). Wilcoxon's test for matched data pairs showed no significant difference between the self-reported median level of extraversion for self vs. that for the ideal mate. Neither did the Wilcoxon test

show a significant difference between median level of openness reported for self vs. that for the ideal mate.

These ratings did not correlate with predictor variables such as gender, age, marital status or social class. However, in each of these studies, the Spearman rank order correlation coefficients between participant ratings of self and participant ratings of the ideal mate were positive ($\rho = +.30$, $p < .05$ for extraversion; $\rho = +.29$, $p < .05$ for openness).

These data are consistent with the sociological theory of homogamy and the like-seeks-like GOCASE mate selection theory advocated by Miller (2009), rather than the old adage that "opposites attract."

Sources Cited:

- Costa, P. T. & McCrae, R. R. (1992). *Personality in adulthood*. New York: Guilford Press.
- Eysenck, H. J. (1967). *The biological basis of personality*. Springfield: Thomas.
- Gosling, S. D., Rentfrow, P., & Swann Jr., W. (2003). A very brief measure of the Big-Five personality domains. *Journal of Research in Personality*. 37. 504-528.
- Miller, Geoffrey (2009). *Spent: sex, evolution, and cognitive behavior*. New York: Viking.