

## **DIRECTIONS FOR FIRST PAPERS FOR ASSESSMENT**

### **General:**

- Please have students put the following information in the paper headings: Student name, instructor name, course, date.
- Feel free to submit the papers to Jim Laughton, BH 1056, as soon as you collect them.

### **Beginning papers**

- During the first week, please assign and collect a comparison-contrast paper.
- Use the two attached (very small papers) for the comparison-contrast
- This comparison/contrast may be either an in-class activity or a take-home assignment—depending on your time and your discretion.
- Except* • **Expect** for the direction which follows, do NOT give the students any instructions for documentation, structure, writing process, editing.....Let this be a true first attempt by the student with no instruction.
- Please tell the students they should take a position on the issue and document the sources as they see fit.
- You may use this paper for placement or diagnostic purposes. If you plan to return the paper to the students, please collect a second copy to submit for assessment.
- Be sure that the student understands the importance of the exercise.

If based on your reading of this assignment, you feel that a student has been incorrectly placed in your class, please let me know.

**Click Here for Romance**  
Jennifer Wolcott

*A staff writer for The Christian Science Monitor, Jennifer Wolcott writes on a wide range of topics, including social issues, the arts, and popular culture*

Online chat can sprout real-life romances that begin with surprisingly honest communication and realistic expectations, traits that many traditional relationships lack at first, according to an Ohio University sociologist who is studying relationships that begin in cyberspace. "I really feel the basis of these relationships is better and deeper than many real-life meetings because the couples are honest with each other in their writings," says Andrea Baker, assistant professor of sociology at Ohio University's Lancaster campus [ . . . ] Baker's study suggests the written word tends to promote frank conversation in cyberspace, especially between couples who eventually want to meet face-to-face. Study participants said this immediate sincerity when meeting online was a pleasant switch from the typical blind date scenario. "Couples say this kind of honesty is absolutely necessary to forming a good relationship," Baker says. "In most cases, they are extremely honest and really cover the downsides as well as the upsides so there won't be any surprises when they meet." [ . . . ]

Honesty is what most appealed to California resident John Dwyer about the online approach. Disillusioned with the bar scene, he decided to give it a whirl. He posted a personal ad and photograph, got hundreds of responses, and eventually connected with Debbie. They married this past New Year's Eve—a year and a half after she answered his online ad. "If you are honest when talking online, you can strip away all the superficial stuff and really get to know someone," says Debbie. How did she know John was being honest? "I got a sense from the conversation whether it was real or contrived," she says. "I could tell after a while that he wasn't just someone trying to land a fish."

Jennifer Wolcott, "Click Here for Romance," The Christian Science Monitor 13 Jan. 1999, 23 Feb. 2000 <<http://www.csmonitor.com/durable/1991/01/13/fp1151.csm.shtml>>

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**You've Got Romance! Seeking Love Online: Net-Based Services Change the Landscape, if Not the Odds, of Finding the Perfect Mate**  
Bonnie Rothman Morris

*Bonnie Rothman Morris is a journalist and screenwriter who writes frequently for The New York Times, which is the source for this excerpt. Morris's screenplays include the comedies "Guy and Doll," and "Taking the Leap."*

Tom Buckley didn't have much use for a dating service, or so he thought. "I didn't need to pay a company to help set me up to get a date, a girlfriend, a fiancée, a wife," said Buckley, 30, a steel broker in Portland, Ore., who plays rugby in his spare time. But after a lonely Thanksgiving dinner where he was the only single adult at the family dinner table, Buckley signed up for a free week on Match.com. What ensued on the matchmaking service was an e-mail romance with Terri Muir, a schoolteacher on Vancouver Island in British Columbia. "Anybody who knew us would never have thought we would have gone down that road," Buckley said in a telephone interview. Reflecting on the couple's instant attraction, he said, "e-mail made it easier to communicate because neither one of us was the type to walk up to someone in the gym or a bar and say, 'You're the fuel to my fire.'"

Thirteen months after their first feverish exchanges, Buckley and Ms. Muir lied to their family and friends and sneaked away to Vancouver to meet for the first time. At their wedding one year later, they finally told the tale of how they had met to their 100 guests. More and more single people, used to finding everything else on the Internet, are using it to search for love. More than 2,500 Web sites for adults are now devoted to matchmaking, said Daniel Bender, founder of Cupid's Network, an Internet portal for personals sites. [ . . . ]

[Robert Spradling] struck up an online romance with a Ukrainian woman whom he had met on American Singles. The woman immediately asked him for money to pay the agency she was using to translate and send her romantic e-mails back to him. There are many such agencies in the former Soviet Union, Spradling said. Next she told Spradling she wanted to start her own matchmaking agency. Spradling, 42, an employee in the development office at Morehead State University in Kentucky, footed the bill for that, too. After sending her about \$8,000, Spradling asked her to marry him, via e-mail. She said yes and invited him to Kiev. "When you meet somebody and you think you're in love, you never see any faults," said Spradling, who said the couple had made wedding plans when he was visiting. After his return to the United States, Spradling never heard from her again. He's sworn off finding love through the Internet for now [ . . . ]. "I caution a lot of guys to be careful and keep their head and learn a lot about who they're dating online," Spradling said.

Bonnie R. Morris, "You've Got Romance! Seeking Love Online: Net-Based Services Change the Landscape, if Not the Odds, of Finding the Perfect Mate," New York Times on the Web 26 Aug. 1999, 23 Feb. 2000 <<http://www.nytimes.com/library/vr/mo/circuits/index.html>>

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