# Family Life in Contemporary Canada Research Paper Activity

2000–2500 word research paper on an area of interest for you about family life in contemporary Canada

**Project Description**

**Part 1: Choose your topic**

Choose an area of interest for you about family life in Canada with which you have some personal connection or have always wondered about. For instance, perhaps you are personally interested in family diversity since your family may have immigrated to Canada (recently, or not so recently), or perhaps you belong to a family with non-traditional gender roles or non-heteronormative patterns of family life and would like to know more about a specific non-traditional form of family life in Canada. You could also focus your study on the transformations of families through history in Canada; on one specific ethnic group or around one specific aspect of family life; such as courting, marriage, divorce, caring for the elderly or for children, or specific aspects of these family dynamics under certain family situations such as divorce, or migration. Another area of study with possible personal relevance could explore the way Aboriginal families have been affected by the colonial relationship that has existed through history in Canada and its latest developments. These are just a few examples of the many areas that you can choose to explore through further study and research in which you can find some personal connection of family life. In the process of putting together a research project, it helps to focus on one specific area of family life in Canada and to choose a topic to which you can relate personally.

Make sure you narrow your topic down by focusing on one of its specific aspects or areas. Before you do this, you need to start a **literature review** (scholarly research) on your area of interest to become more knowledgeable about the broad topic about which you are curious. Go to the library or the library web site to find scholarly sources and read the research on your area of interest on family life in Canada to be able to tease out its various aspects. This assignment will allow you to go deeper in knowledge of your specific topic of study. In order to do this, you need to narrow down your general area of interest to a specific aspect for family life in Canada. Choosing too broad a topic only results in a superficial discussion.

**Part 2: Conduct a literature review**

Start your literature review early! This provides you with the opportunity to learn more about a broad topic that you are interested in and to find the specific aspect that you want to focus on and narrow it down properly.

Once you know more about your chosen topic, try to get your own voice on paper by writing the questions that you have in your mind. Then, research to explore your own thinking further, to learn what others think of the issue, and to find facts that support or refute your initial views.

Answer the questions that were on your mind and keep a good set of research notes that will help you in developing your thoughts and defining a clear thesis.

**Part 3: Create an essay outline**

Put together an essay outline in which you define a thesis and all the elements that need to be addressed in order to prove it on the basis of the evidence that you have found in your research. Keep in mind that regardless of the topic or research question you choose, you will need to develop a clear thesis and provide evidence from your research to support your argument (i.e., to defend your position).

**Part 4: Complete your research paper**

Complete a 2000–2500 word research paper on your chosen area of interest about family life in Canada within a relevant sense of history, and drawing on sound documented arguments and sociological evidence as required.

**Suggestions for Evaluating the Final Research Project**

The following criteria will be used for evaluating the final research project:

**Creativity (*15 marks*)**

* Illustrates a unique voice of the author
* Offers insight about a significant issue
* Shows initiative in thought

**Integration (*15 marks*)**

* Provides a clear theoretical and conceptual framework
* Demonstrates understanding of concepts of social diversity
* Understandable to an interdisciplinary audience

**Argument (*15 marks*)**

* Convincing and well-supported argument
* Good, convincing support for all ideas
* Reasoning is explained clearly and includes specific references
* Awareness of other interpretations and comparison with yours
* Realistic vision of the future

**Topic/Thesis (*15 marks*)**

* Topic/thesis/theme clearly stated and narrowed down
* Includes all relevant ideas and considerations
* Appropriate sources accurately cited

**Organization (*15 marks*)**

* Clear essay structure for an academic essay
* Thread of argument builds throughout paper
* Arrangement of points and evidence is effective
* No rambling or repetition
* Points are given weighting relevant to importance to the thesis or theme

**Writing (*15 marks*)**

* Clear, concise writing that is easily followed
* Correct sentence structure, grammar, spelling, and punctuation

**Documentation Style (*10 marks*)**

* References properly and consistently cited and recorded using APA citation style