

“It’s Just a Joke: Humor’s Effect on Perceived Sexism in Prejudiced Statements” was the result of an entire semester of work. Two other students and I, all in the same research methods class, formed a group based on the common interest of investigating a topic related to sexism. Numerous resources contributed to being able to successfully complete the research project this semester, though the vast majority of the resources came from Fondren library.

One resource that might be overlooked by many was particularly invaluable: having a quiet space within which to meet and discuss the project. Being able to sit down and talk about what we wanted to explore, how we wanted to investigate these subjects, and how we were going to do it was a critical for being able to complete such an involved project. Another great resource that made the process easier was the floor maps provided on the website to help navigate the otherwise labyrinthine layout of Fondren; being able to quickly navigate through the building and find the exact study room for our meeting allowed us to take advantage of our full meeting time.

While meeting during our initial brainstorm sessions, we settled on exploring something related to sexism, but were torn on exactly *what* to explore. A previous psychology course I had taken covered gender and humor, but the research I did at Fondren showed there was relatively little work compared performed within psychology on the subject compared to other topics. In hopes of finding novel effects and inspiring future research, we chose to explore prejudice and humor.

Since our research involves a topic that isn’t largely explored within psychology, there were not many informative resources that could inspire and inform our research design. The vast majority of the literature we found came from being able to search the various databases available to us through Fondren library. The “Databases by Subject” resource on the official

Fondren webpage was an especially useful resource, and helped us discover databases we were previously unaware of. Being able to search through these additional databases led us to discover papers we otherwise would have never found. Had it not been for the diverse list of databases compiled on the website, our background research would not have been as in depth and our understanding of disparaging, prejudiced humor would not be as intricate, and our project ultimately would have suffered.

The final paper itself was written separately, and being able to utilize the Center for Written, Oral, and Visual Communication within Fondren and the resources they provided was incredibly helpful for compiling the findings from the study into both a poster and a paper to present the findings from the research. Ultimately, the project would not have been possible without the myriad resources Fondren provides, and it certainly would not have been realized with the same quality, depth, and breadth of understanding.