

Template for research proposal: Critical Report

This guide allows you to provide an outline of research motivations and objectives identifying key research to support a discussion on a specific research topic.

Note: you should apply the Harvard referencing conventions in all sections.

1. Research Objective and Question

A title's primary function is to define precisely and concisely the topic. A legitimate secondary function is to stimulate the reader's interest. Two-part titles are common: a main title to stimulate interest and somehow imaginatively 'encapsulate' the topic, and a subsidiary title to specify or focus the topic.

Topic: Asexual representation suppresses aromantic representation in modern animation
Research question: Why does asexual representation undermine aromatic representation in modern animation?
Research objective: Study why asexual identity is more frequently explored and described in animation than aromatic one.

2. Project Rationale

Consider and explain why you wish to research the subject? A short introduction to the topic, why it is of interest, and why the research is worthwhile. Clarify the central question you are addressing, what will your argument, (your hypothesis) be? (Max 200 words)

Relevance: Nowadays, the world is diversified, which is reflected in modern animation. Recently, animation has increasingly embraced LGBTQIA+ character representation. However, the visibility of less well-known and popular identities such as aromantic and asexual remains quite low. Often, such characters are endorsed by the fan base rather than by canon and producers. However, even officially confirmed characters carry stereotypes, such as the idea that aromantic character must also be always asexual.

Research Gap: While there exists a number of research which examines the impact of the aromatic and asexual representation on people, it lacks the specifics of reasons for the prevalence of asexual identity over aromatic one in modern animation.

Hypothesis: Asexuality is easier to show than aromanticism, therefore, in animation, either a completely aromantic and asexual character, or an asexual one, is most often created.

3. Keywords and keyword phrases used for research

Experiment with connecting key words and phrases relevant to your topic and research objectives on academic sites. You can optimise key words/phrase searching by reading around your topic.

Modern animation

Asexuality

Aromanticism

Representation

Identity

4. Situate your proposal in relation to key texts, issues and debates.

Produce a draft review establishing and explaining the views of relevant authors and how they can support the presentation of your argument to answer the research question. Use Harvard referencing (Max 300 words)

In 'A Content Analysis of LGBTQIA+ Representation in Anime & American Animation' (Bravo, 2022) representation of LGBTQIA+ characters in Japanese and American Animation is evaluated by using qualitative method of research. Bravo (2022) studied 3 Japanese anime's and 3 American cartoons in order to compare and contrast differences in portraying queer characters.

Brown (2019) in 'Asexual Representation in Fiction' stated that the work focuses on asexual representation in fiction and media. The author researched whether asexual identity was presented in negative or positive light.

Gray (2024) in 'A social conversation on asexuality: queer spaces and media representation' stated that asexuality remains poorly understood despite the increasing visibility of queer topics in mainstream discourse. Through an ethnographic approach involving surveys, interviews, and participant observation, authors research aimed to foster dialogue on asexuality and promote greater inclusivity and acceptance within media and society.

5. Identify any materials or data that will be examined

Include names of material examples to be examined such as films, artworks, games, events, directors and artists, or any other relevant media. sources that might provide pertinent data or statistics to support research objectives. All material should be referenced using the Harvard Style

Hazbin hotel (2019). Directed by V. Medrano. Amazon Prime Video (Alastor: ace/aroace)

The Owl House (2020) Directed by D. Terrace. Disney Channel (Lilith Clawthorne: Confirmed as asexual and aromatic by her voice actor)

Bojack Horseman (2014). Directed by R. Bob-Waksberg. Netflix (Todd Chavez: ace)

Arcane (2021). Directed by Christian Linke and Alex Yee. Netflix (Viktor: ace)

6. Bibliography

List recognised academic books, journals and articles, that you may use to support the research you wish to undertake. This list should be referenced. Harvard Style – For guidance on how to reference correctly (using your UAL login) See appropriate examples on <https://www.citethemrightonline.com/>

Hernandez, J. (2021). 'Asexual Protagonists: What Their Patterns Reveal About the Representation of Asexuality in Current Literature'.

Bravo, A. (2022). 'A Content Analysis of LGBTQIA+ Representation in Anime & American Animation'.

Brown, A. (2019). 'Asexual Representation in Fiction'.

Gray, M. E. (2024). 'A SOCIAL CONVERSATION ON ASEXUALITY: QUEER SPACES AND MEDIA REPRESENTATION'.

Girard, D. (2022). 'Asexual disruptions in Netflix's BoJack Horseman'. *Queer Studies in Media & Popular Culture*, 7(1-2), 41-54.