

Motivated by my passion for understanding human behavior and in specific the dynamics that take place in a marital dyad brought me to review a plethora of literature for this research paper. I began with just an idea in my mind, not knowing exactly where that idea would take me. I reviewed nearly 34 pieces of information: Different articles and several books. I first started with a wide focus, such as the notion that our internal processes may be behind the reason some married couples look at their children as the driving force behind their marital dissatisfaction. But, I didn't get the results I wanted.

Then, I thought that depression or lack of commitment to the relationship may be playing a role in the degree of marital satisfaction after the children arrive. But, that also didn't meet what I thought was needed for this research paper. While in the midst of checking different ideas and reviewing different articles, I came across other ideas such as parental influence and problem-solving strategies. But, none of those hit the spot until I came across Moller, Hwang, & Wickberg's (2006) "Romantic attachment, parenthood, and marital satisfaction."

Bowlby's concept of childhood attachment influencing adult relationship made sense to me. That is when I realized I had found the anchor to my research paper. From there, I continued searching for articles that touched on the subject of attachment and I ended up retrieving a total of nine (9) articles from Swilley's counseling databases, three (3) of which I had to order through Swilley's interlibrary loan department. One of the most important lessons I learned from doing this project is the need to stay open to new ideas and on letting the actual results from my research take me through places where I may not have imagined. The rationale behind the resources I used is that these references provide the readers with supportive documentation to my argument, it anticipates and answers questions in the readers' mind, and provides a logical path to my arguments. Beholden to Greek philosopher Aristotle, I am motivated to identify with my readers by applying logic, emotion, and ethics (logos, pathos, and ethos). With that in mind, I supplied my readers with different points of views and I persuade them with rhetoric (the creative ability to effectively convince an audience through the use of words). I think it is important when doing research to stay open to new ideas and truly dedicate the time it needs. Academic inquiry is time-consuming, but well worth our time and effort. The information I learned from my deep involvement in this project has deepened my understanding about family dynamics: When one variable changes, all the others will change as the result. We bring our history in our packets to everything we do.