

Courting Versus Dating and the perceptions among college students

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Abstract

This study would have looked at the perceptions of courting or dating among college students. The study would have included approximately 200 college students that would be conveniently chosen who would have completed a survey online through Survey Monkey. Each of the participants would have answered questions regarding dating and long-term relationships. The questionnaire would ask questions such as how they perceive dating and courting, as well as how they perceive themselves in relationships. The questions asked would record the answers of the participants to obtain the participants' perception of courting versus dating. The response from the participants would have reflected an overall general idea of what college students prefer in regard to courtship and dating and how their decision may impact on future generations.

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Introduction

As newer generations begin to blossom, things that were once valued by society and of utmost importance seem to become a distant memory. It seems as if many people are more so concerned about making sure that they have everything or have experienced everything before thinking about creating a family and living what once was the “American Dream”. The purpose of this study is to find out what traditional college-aged students think regarding courting or dating and how their perceptions should have an impact on the society we see today. This study should reflect how college students feel about marriage, which would show how their perceptions may impact on future generations.

Purpose of Thesis

The purpose of this study is to figure out whether traditionally-aged college students prefer courting and dating and how that may impact future generations. The implications could mean we see a gap in the amount of people getting married or the number of children being born. The researcher was in a courtship and wanted to see how other people their age choose to court or date. As the researcher started looking for research, it was discovered that there was little research on whether college students prefer courting or dating. The researcher believes that many college students think that they are dating but they are courting, because they are confused on the definitions of the two.

Definitions of terms

- American Dream- an American social ideal that stresses egalitarianism and especially material prosperity. (Merriam-Webster. (n.d.))
- Traditional-aged college student- College students that are between the ages of 18-24, attend college day and/or night, are less likely to hold a job while in school, and may be financially supported by someone (National Survey of Student Engagement, 2006)
- Courting- Webster's dictionary defines courting as “to engage in social activities leading to engagement and marriage” (Merriam-Webster. (n.d.))
- Dating- the term dating is generally referred to as “to make a usually romantic social arrangement to meet with: to have a date with” (Merriam-Webster. (n.d.))
- Hook Ups- when two, or more, people engage in sexual behaviors ranging from kissing to sexual intercourse with no expectation of commitment after. (Jacqueline Bible, Soyoung Lee, Lisa Liberman, 2018)

Research Questions

Research Question 1: How do college students perceive the difference between courting versus dating?

Research Question 2: Do college students believe that they are dating when they are in fact courting one another?

Research Questions 3: Does the college student's family background have an effect on their choice of dating or courting?

Research Question 4: Are college students interested in intimate relationships?

Conceptual framework

Erik Erikson's stages of Psychosocial Development was the motivating theory behind the researcher's desire to conduct this thesis. Erikson's theory was applied to this thesis to determine how a college student's answer to said study would reflect their perceptions on courting or dating. The Psychosocial theory includes stages that are a part of human development which could reflect how a college student perceives certain topics based on their development.

Explanation of framework

The framework of this thesis is associated with Erik Erikson's fifth stage of Identity vs. Confusion and Erik Erikson's sixth stage of Intimacy vs. Isolation, which are all parts of his Psychosocial Development theory. One article defines Erik Erikson's fifth stage as "children explore[ing] their independence and develop a sense of self. Completing this stage successfully leads to fidelity, which Erikson described as an ability to live by society's standards and expectations" (Cherry, K. (2018)). The fifth stage is when a college student begins to be independent and make choices for themselves. When a college student is in this phase, they begin to use the knowledge they have and the observations they have made throughout life to affect the decision they have made. The same article defines the Erik Erikson's sixth stage as "early adulthood when people are exploring personal relationships." (Cherry, K. (2018)). In this sixth stage, according to Erikson, this is when those relationships begin to form and where steps one through five help a person in this stage of intimate relationships and determining which type relationship, whether courting or dating, works best for them.

Literature Review

The following research study is designed to show the difference of courting or dating among college students and how their perceptions could have an impact on the society we may come to see in the future. Throughout the years these two words have been used synonymously; however, both words have a very distinct meaning and some college students may understand the difference. The researcher proposes that many college students would actually prefer dating instead of courting due to the trends of society. However, in today's times the assumption can be made that many of the college students are unintentionally courting but say that they are simply dating based on their actions. The students are unintentionally courting because they are dating the same person for many years and eventually end up marrying the person. Being in a relationship with only one person and ultimately marrying them, sooner or later, are the exact actions defining what it means to court someone.

In 2020, courting can be considered an outdated term, or a term used for many of the older generations. However, it also can be considered a limitation of the past and the 21st century is far too progressive to revert to something of the past. The study will determine why college students prefer dating and how society is moving towards doing away with the term courting. There is much more to the term dating or courting; the individual and their background all play a part in why a person prefers dating or courting. Webster's dictionary defines courting as "to engage in social activities leading to engagement and marriage" while the term dating is generally referred to as "to make a usually romantic social arrangement to meet with: to have a date with". The definition of one word indicates a journey to a long commitment, called marriage and the other definitions implies a path of fun and no commitments. Thus, the two words lead a person to choose between having a journey to commitment or a journey to fun. Another way this

can be understood is a choice in having an obligation and being exclusive or having no obligations, but they are inclusive. It is almost like choosing between a backpacking trip throughout Europe for a summer or spending an entire summer in Alaska with only one outfit. A person's beliefs and attitudes towards the specific path will impact which one they are more inclined to choose.

When it comes to dating, it can often be seen by anyone as a process in which the stereotypical gender norms began to fantasize and materialize the exclusiveness of a relationship. The path that college students take often has something to do with the lifestyle they came from and how they are personally benefited. The conceptual life stage of "adulthood" has been broken into two parts within the last two decades: emerging adulthood and adulthood (Stanley et al, 2010). Frankly, Americans are taking longer to "grow up." We are living with our parents longer (Qian, 2012), federal health care reform has allowed us to remain on our parent's health insurance until the age of 26, and we are pushing the next stage of marriage and starting a family further and further back. Therefore, many people are choosing to have more fun and live with no obligations rather than to be "tied down" or have obligations as someone's spouse. Researchers have argued that dating perpetuates gender double standards, the sexual exploitation of women, and the economic exploitation of men (Belk & Coon, 1993).

Values and beliefs, that are formed very early in our life, can tell many things about a person, but it also shapes and determines what a person does. Our values and beliefs shape which path we take; our values and beliefs also reflect our love life and how we choose what we want. When entering college, many people are transitioning from Erik Erikson's fifth stage of Identity vs. Confusion into Erik Erikson's sixth stage of Intimacy vs. Isolation of Psychosocial Development. According to Erickson the fifth stage is when a person begins to figure out that

they have independence aside from their parents and who they are as a person (Amidon, Monroe, & Ortwein). In the sixth stage the person knows who their identity is and how to separate themselves from their parents. It can be hard for a college student to truly figure out who they are because they are being tested in every different angle one can imagine. Not only are the college students seeking to find the “ultimate” college experience, but they are also trying to make a name for themselves, build long-term friendships and connections, and begin making steps towards their career. Dr. Cronin of Boston College (2012) explains being accepted in college and maintaining social status is important; however, he fails to mention that while it is important in a college student’ life it can be very stressful and confusing. Weisskirch (2017) shares that the emerging college adult begins to explore romantic relationships and their possibilities.

Typically, according to Erickson’s theories, the sixth stage of psychosocial developments appears when a person is in their early twenties until they reach the age of about 40 (Amidon, Monroe, & Ortwein). Once someone has graduated from the fifth stage, or fulfilled their need, they now know who they are and are now wanting to discover and explore relationships beyond the platonic level. Those previous experiences within their respective communities are collective elements that combine to create a culture for the student. Those initial behaviors can be reflective of a student’s culture and what a student will bring with them to support their initial efforts to establish a new identity and answer the questions, who am I and what do I stand for. Even within a romantic relationship of an emerging adult college student, these elements of culture and identity are still factors that affect the relationship (Arnett, 2011). Aside from starting their college journey or continuing their journey, a college student is trying to discover who they truly are and what they believe.

It would seem beneficial for a college-aged student to date rather than enter into an exclusive relationship, known as courtship, when they are still trying to get their bearings of who they are and discover what type of intimate relationship they want. Instead of being “tied down”, stressed, and confused, a college student would, should, prefer to at least have fun and enjoy life while stressed and confused. An entering college student, or a person continuing college will not only be stressed about their life but they will also be confused about school, who they are; they are also concerned, worried even, about their self-esteem and how they are perceived by others. Quatman, Sampson, Robinson, & Watson (2001) examined the impact that dating and courting have on the self-esteem of females versus males. Their study found that males do not allow their self-esteem to be impacted by others as much as females. The study found that dating is not detrimental to the male self-esteem, and that it does adversely impact the self-esteem of females involved, consequently the sense of the female identity, and who they are as students are impacted. In the case of who cares the most about their perception perceived by others, it was found that women tend to care more about how they are perceived more than males.

Courtship is considered an outdated term in the 21st century. Courtship was perceived as, or defined and understood by some people as, a person relying on a higher power/higher being or allowing members of their family to choose their mate. For Christians most of them believe that God will send their soulmate to cross their path somehow. The understanding was that two people will enter a courtship or an agreement to have the intent of marrying the other but allowing their relationship to honor God. For others that might not believe in God, a courtship was being with someone where they are exclusive with and had the intention of marrying. Most courting relationships were guaranteed to end in marriage, it was very rare for a courtship to end before marriage. Thanks to traditional values and beliefs being instilled in generations and

Joshua Harris' courtship confessional "I Kissed Dating Goodbye" being released in 1997, courting has begun to resurface. In his book he talks about the defectiveness of dating and how one should look at intimate relationships and people they should consider when deciding about their future. Joshua Harris' book takes a Christian perspective of dating, but it can be viewed through a lens other than Christian. The book influenced the people during that time, which created a wave of courting over dating. However, as with anything of the past, we see a wave surface and then it dies again, much like courting is doing among college-aged students. Contrary to courting, dating is the new best thing to do and it comes in many forms.

Similar to any good idea that resurfaces, its death is somewhere lurking in the scenes. Joshua Harris' "I Kissed Dating Goodbye" was once a great book and well received in 1997 has been brought under fire 23 years later. The author himself has talked about why and how he does not stand by courting anymore and would recommend dating. In his statement he discusses why dating is much healthier for a person and there is less pressure on a person when they are dating and not courting anyone. He makes the suggestion that courting creates a sense of euphoria and sets people up for a false sense of love reality. However, on the other hand, dating tends to let a person experience a little more freedom and get a taste of what reality is truly like.

Unlike 15 years ago, many people are able to simply date from behind the computer screen or an app on their phone. Dating comes in many forms whether it is a dating app, social media, or through a mutual friend, and is vastly different from the way parents and grandparents used to date. From swiping left to double tapping, dating is favored among college students because the dating app allows them to be active on their phones as well as meet new people. Nowadays people can tell more about a person on their social media and phone than they will ever learn from having a ten-minute conversation face to face. Dating allows a person to

entertain more than one person and negates allowing a person to remain loyal or faithful to simply one person. There is a popular phrase in today's times that allows a person to have fun and try new things. This is often referred to as a person "living [their] my best life". Dating seems to be the fun version of living life and trying new things or living their life to their fullest potential, regardless of how ever many people it would take for them to enjoy their life. Waller (1937) highlights the distinction between courtship and dating stating the ultimate aim of the former was to secure a marriage partner while the latter, he contends, was more of an amusement – a means to satisfy immediate physical desires. When dating one can engage in kissing, hooking up and all of the gray areas that come along with intimacy before marriage. Courtship implies that all sexual intimacy will be saved until marriage and they will avoid falling into those gray areas. Courtship is more concerned with understanding each other as an individual, understanding how the two as a couple work, and understanding important other needs outside of physical needs. Although dating has looser restrictions on physicality than courtship and does not always equate marriage, many college students did in fact date as a means to get to know future marriage partners (Fass,1977). In addition to allowing a person to have fun, it allows a person to feel comfortable exploring new things but also it eliminates the labels, so that they can live for the here and now instead of the future. Dating allows a person to figure out who they like and what they like intimately before committing to a single person for their entire life.

In "From Front Porch to Backseat" by Beth Bailey (1988), she recalls what it was like to go from courting to dating and even gives an example of when she believes the switch happened. Beth said that "Dating came to the middle class through the upper classes – and from the lower" (p. 17). Dating was the product of having limited resources in a newly industrialized and urban environment for many working-class women. Under the calling model, men would come to a

woman's family house and usually sit in their front room and visit. However, this arrangement was not always possible for working class women and families who lived in crowded urban apartments. As a result, poor and working-class couples spent time together in places like dance halls or movie houses – both, Bailey points out, “were not perceived as respectable establishments.” While dating was not widely accepted and frowned upon at that time it soon became the norm. Beth even gave one prime example of how the emergence of the automobile truly sparked the new “dating” term. In the book, Bailey (1988) shows how the emergence of the automobiles “contributed to the rise of dating as a national practice especially in rural and suburban areas” (p.19).

Five short years after Beth Bailey's book a study conducted in 1993 revealed a shocking revelation about the college students and their sexual relations. In a study looking at gender differences in men and women's sexual beliefs and experiences at a state university in the eastern part of the United States, Lottes (1993) found 87 percent of men and 80 percent of women reported experience with coitus and 83 percent of men and 80 percent of women had engaged in oral sex. Based off of these statistics we can see that there was definitely a shift from courting, or what some may call formal dating, and dating. It is believed that even with the resurfacing of courting, in 2020, many people still prefer to date rather than formally court a person with the intent to marry them. The goal of the research proposal is to determine whether or not college students prefer to date or court and the affect that it has on those around us or those to come. The researcher predicts that college students would rather date than court because it allows them to enjoy life now and build a family later on in life. It seems as if there has been a major switch from going to college, getting married, and starting a family to going into college, being single, working and having fun, and then starting a family later in life.

As mentioned earlier, dating is the scene that allows a person to have fun and explore their options. This exploring also allows for sexual intercourse or sexual relations with multiple people, also known as hookups. A recent study in 2018 defined hook ups as “ Hooking up refers to when two, or more, people engage in sexual behaviors ranging from kissing to sexual intercourse with no expectation of commitment after (Fielder, Walsh, Carey, & Carey, 2014)...”. (Jacqueline Bible, Soyoung Lee, Lisa Liberman, 2018). The notion of hooking up can be much more appealing than a committed relationship because it allows people to experience sexual intercourse without being in a committed relationship and having intercourse with only one person. Dating could be the new popular trend among college students which could leave courting a thing of the past.

Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1

H1: Many college students believe that they are dating when they are in fact courting one another.

H0: Many college students believe they are courting when they are in fact dating.

Hypothesis 2

H1: The definitions of dating and courting are confusing for many college students.

H0: The definitions of dating and courting are not confusing for many college students.

Hypothesis 3

H1: Many college students think that being in an official relationship during their college years whether dating or courting is not necessary.

H0: Many college students think that being in an official relationship during their college years whether dating or courting is necessary.

Hypothesis 4

H1: The college student's family background will affect their choice of dating or courting.

H0: The college student's family background will not affect their choice of dating or courting.

Hypothesis 5

H1: Many college students are not interested in intimate relationships in general.

H0: Many college students are interested in intimate relationships in general but are unsure of how to go about them.

Methodology

Disclaimer: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the researcher was not able to fully conduct the study. Since the researcher was unable to conduct the study the methodology section is what the researcher would have done if able to conduct the study.

Independent Variable

This will be a quasi-experiment in which we will compare the results of who prefers dating or courting and which sex leans more towards courting or dating. The study will also look at how many factors, such as gender, race/ethnicity, SES, and religion in the participant's life as a determinate to which the participants prefer. The independent variable for this experiment will be the participants chosen.

Dependent Variable

The dependent variable for this experiment will be the perceptions of courting or dating among traditional-aged college students. The questions asked will allow the participant to reflect on their past experiences and their family life which will shape their perception of courting or dating. The questions being asked will yield results that will reflect what college students prefer.

Participants

This sample will be obtained through convenient random sampling. For the purpose of this research study, a questionnaire study will be conducted on roughly 200 traditional-aged college participants. Traditionally college-aged participants refer to young adults ages 18-22. Traditional college-aged students are going to improve the future way of life, so they are the best

participants for the study. The participants will be randomly selected from different degree programs and classes at Houston Baptist University. The anticipated goal of the study is to have participants comprised of 100 males and 100 females. By randomly selecting the participants the study will reflect the different ethnicities and cultures represented at Houston Baptist University. The participants' relationship status will not matter because they all should have enough knowledge to understand what they think, want, or would like to engage in as a relationship. The small sample of 200 students will be a representation of the general population at Houston Baptist University. The 200 participants will partake in a questionnaire that will ask questions pertaining to dating and long-term relationships. The questionnaire will ask questions such as how they perceive dating and courting, as well as how they perceive themselves in relationships. The questionnaire will consist of online questions. The online questionnaire will be a mixture of having the participants select the number they feel most aligns with their feelings and then having several open-ended questions. The study and questionnaire will be conducted online in hopes that the participants will be honest and really open up about their feelings.

Design

The research study will be conducted over a two-week period. Participants will be directed to an online form where they will answer the questions. The questions will be a mixture of how the participant feels and selecting a number on what they feel should define how they perceive courting and dating. The questionnaire will also include a few open-ended questions allowing the participant to define what courting and dating means to them. The participant will also be asked what makes them happy and to list one word that would define who they are. The questionnaire will include questions regarding the participants SES, their race/ethnicity, and other to the environment they grew up in and family life. Once all of the responses have been

collected, the researcher will then run the T-test on the score scales received from the responses. The researcher will take the answers from the open-ended questions to craft a general definition of what courting and dating means based on the responses from the participants.

Statistical Procedure

In order to measure and differentiate the scores and which is preferred among college aged students, two different T-tests will be used. The two T-tests used will be the two paired sample t-tests and two independent sample t-tests. An independent T-test will be conducted to compare the results of those who prefer dating versus courting and then a subsequent independent T-test will be conducted to compare the responses of the male to female ratio. An additional paired sample T-test will be conducted to see the results of the small sample population measured against the consensus that the general population prefers dating over courting.

Confounds

There are numerous confounds that could impact on the study, including COVID-19. The relationship history of each participant can have an impact on the way they view dating and courting. The participant could have been in a relationship where they have tried dating in high school, but they did not find any enjoyment or fulfillment. The person then could have the mindset that dating is not for them but would rather focus on one person, which is courting. On the other hand, a person could have only exclusively dated one person and it did not work. So that person does not want to focus on an exclusive relationship and would rather have some fun. The family history of each participant will reflect on their decision. Whether or not a participant's mother and father are still together or if they were not together while the

participants were growing up will have an impact on whether or not a participant will want to choose dating or courting. The ethnicity and culture of the participants' family is a confound because each family differs from what they believe and how they think as a family unit. Each family creates their own beliefs and ideas so it would be hard to limit or even control the way the participants were raised. In addition to the family history, where the participant grew up shapes their perception on what they think love and relationships should look like. We often allow what we see to shape how we feel and alter what we think. Socioeconomic status has an effect on what the participants believe. If the participant does not have money like they believe they should, then that could delay when the person feels like getting married or if they choose to date rather than stay committed to one person for a long period of time. Religious beliefs influence whether or not the participants believe the guidelines of dating or courting. Christianity believes that there should be no sex before marriage and that courting is the best way to do things because the person is completely committed to one person like they are to Christ. Other religions think that it okay for someone to date around and have sex outside of marriage.

Discussion

The proposed study would have given a general idea of how the students at Houston Baptist Universities perceive courting and dating. The first hypothesis is that “Many college students believe that they are dating when they are in fact courting one another.” The researcher hypothesized that upon taking the survey the results would have shown that college students mislabeled courting and dating. It is hypothesized that based off of the results from the survey college students would be courting by definition instead of dating.

The second hypothesis is that “The definition of dating and courting are confusing for many college students”. The researcher theorized that today’s traditional-aged college students are confused on the definitions of courting and dating, which could have had an impact on the results of the survey. If one is confused on the definitions of dating and courting, it is possible that they will not have an accurate perception on the two terms and could cause the participants to use the two words interchangeably.

The third hypothesis is that “Many college students think that being in an official relationship during their college years whether dating or courting is not necessary.” This hypothesis could pose as a limitation to the study because there are some uncontrollable factors that could influence a person’s mindset of relationship. Since the researcher is unable to control how the participants grew up, it could hinder the results because the participants may be unable to come to their own conclusion.

The fourth hypothesis is that “The college student’s family background will affect their choice of dating or courting”. This hypothesis could also pose as a limitation to the study since there are also some uncontrollable influences. The participants could come from single parent

homes or from families that believe in love and only committed relationships. The results from the survey would vary.

The fifth hypothesis is that “Many college students are not interested in intimate relationships in general”. The researcher proposes that with the growing trend of people wanting to make sure that they are set, whether financially or emotionally, their concerns for intimate relationships are not important. The researcher believes that this hypothesis would have produced a general idea of how college students perceive courting or dating without being in a relationship themselves. This hypothesis would have still given a general perception of the two terms.

Although this researcher was not able to conduct the study there were studies conducted that relates to college students and courting or dating. In the study of “The Influence of College Hookups on Future Romantic Relationships: A Review of the Literatures” the researcher looked at how hook ups could potentially influence future relationships. This hypothesis or theory could then influence how a college student perceives dating or courting and what that means for future generations. The third hypothesis states that “Many college students think that being in an official relationship during their college years whether dating or courting is not necessary” which could potentially be due to several different things. The college student may not be interested in a committed relationship because of their family background. The participant may have come from a one parent home and feel that they are not deserving of love or any kind of relationship, so they would rather just have fun. The previous study stated that “...college students are engaging in hookup behavior..., they may learn that they are not adequate partners in committed romantic relationships (which by definition have high emotional intimacy) and avoid and/or post-pone intimate future relationships such as marriage”(Jacqueline Bible, Soyoung Lee, Lisa

Liberman, 2018). The researcher could have concluded that based on the previous study and used the results of the proposed study to conclude whether or not self-reflection plays a part in their perception.

Summary

This study was going to look at the perceptions of courting and dating among traditional college students. The initial goal of this study was to discover whether or not traditional college students preferred courting or dating and how their perception could have an impact on future generations. It was hypothesized that traditional college students believe that they are dating when they are in fact courting one another however due to the pandemic of COVID-19 the researcher was not able to conduct the study.

Survey

1. Who are you romantically attracted to?

- Men
- Women

2. Do you think you will find your soulmate?

- Yes
- No

3. How many relationships have you been in?

- 0 - 5
- 6 - 10
- 11 - 20
- 21 or more

4. How would you describe love?

5. What is your definition of dating?

6. When you see someone who interest you, what is the first thing you notice?

- Their Physical Appearance
- Their Heart
- Their Brain

7. Rank how important you feel communication and honesty is in a relationship

Not at All

Little

Somewhat

Important

Very Important

Deal Breaker

8. Should there be secrets? (Be honest)

Yes

- No
- It Depends

9. What do you feel are your most important attributes that you bring to a relationship?

- Loyalty
- Honesty
- Affection
- Maturity

10. Have you ever been in love? If so, how many times?

- Never
- A Couple of Times
- Too Many to Count

Other (please specify)

11. What have you used to say or show what an ideal relationship should look like?

⏪
⏩

12. Describe your parents' marriage. What was the best part and the worst part in your opinion?

- Absent (single parent)
- Terrible (wish it was a single parent home, but the other parent was there)
- Horrible (felt like single parent home with both parents)
- Average (nothing special)
- Good (ups & downs but what family is perfect)
- Great (my role models)

13. Select your perfect dream date

- A trip to the Movies
- A romantic Dinner
- A walk in the park
- A picnic on the beach

14. Does the environment you grew up in have an impact on your thoughts?

- Yes
- No

15. What is the one thing that would be a relationship breaker for you?

- Lying
- Flirting with other people
- Cheating
- High Maintenance

16. Who do you believe is the dominant one in a romantic relationship?

- Me
- My partner

17. Do you believe there is a such thing as the perfect person for you?

- Yes
- No

18. What would you define as cheating?

- Flirting
- Texting another person
- Having a romantic lunch or dinner with another person

- Having sexual relations with someone else

19. Do you ever say sorry even if it is not your fault?

- Yes
- No

20. Should you date someone again? Have you ever?

- Yes, I never have
- Yes, and I have
- No and I never have
- No but I have

21. Do you see yourself compromising or negotiating, during disagreements, the most in a romantic relationship?

- Compromising
- Negotiating
- I do not think there is a difference
- Neither

22. What are some annoying habits of other couples that irritate you the most?

- Publicly kissing one another
- Texting each other all day
- Physical Touch
- Not communicating at all

23. How do you vent out your frustrations in a relationship?

- Ignore It

- Pray
- Talk to someone other than your significant other
- Write down all your frustrations

24. What is your definition of courting?

25. Why do you think some couples end up cheating on each other?

- Lack of Communication
- Feeling ignored
- The other person is cuter
- I have no clue

26. If you could have all the benefits you are getting now without losing anything (e.x. children, money), would you rather be single than in a relationship now?

- Single
- In A Relationship

27. If you found out your partner cheated, would you be willing to try and work through it?

- Yes
- No

28. If you said yes to the previous question, under what conditions?

29. Would you want your partner to work through it if it was you who cheated?

- Yes

No

30. When a relationship fails, do you normally blame yourself?

Yes

No

31. When do you make your intentions in the relationship clear?

The first day

1-3 months into the relationship

3-6 months into the relationship

6-9 months into the relationship

1 year or longer into the relationship

I do not make my intentions known at all

32. What is your gender?

Female

Male

Other

33. Please Specify your race/ethnicity.

White

Hispanic or Latino

Black or African American

Native American or American Indian

Asian/ Pacific Islander

Other

34. What is your religious affiliation?

- Christian (Catholic Protestant or any other Christian Denominations)
- Muslim
- Jewish
- Hindu
- Agnostic/ Atheist
- Other

35. How was your Highschool life?

- I went to Public School
- I went to Private School
- I was Homeschooled
- Other

36. Are you originally from Texas or a Southern State?

- Yes, I am from Texas
- No, I am not
- Yes, I am from a Southern State

37. How Old are you?

- 18 years old
- 19 years old
- 20 years old
- 21 years old
- 22 years old

- Older than 22 years old

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