EDS275: Mass Media and Debunking the Myths of Education
Debunking a Myth through Research (50%)

The focus of this course is to uncover our unconscious biases regarding education by unpacking commonly held myths/misconceptions about education in addition to developing a deeper appreciation of how we learn through the media as we break the fake and determine reputable sources.

For this assignment, students are to create and conduct descriptive research using a questionnaire/survey to gain an understanding of people's opinions and attitudes regarding an educational myth/misconception. Through this assignment students will investigate an educational myth/misconception not discussed in this course through gathering information from reputable sources (e.g., online articles with research integrated, TED talks, blogs supported by research, books, book chapters, or empirical research articles). Students will then evaluate the impact on Canadian culture by conducting a questionnaire/survey with at least 25 participants. Findings from the research will be shared to either debunk or confirm the selected educational myth/misconception based on the position taken within the paper and using previous literature/resources.

NOTE: students are welcome to work in groups of up to 3 people or individually. If working in a group of 3, you are required to recruit at least 75 participants. If working in a group of 2, you are required to recruit at least 50 participants. If you decide to work in a group, please email (carly.prusky@utoronto.ca) by **January 20th** and provide the group members.

This assignment is broken down into **3 parts**

Debunking a Myth through Research Part 1 (10%)
DUE: Monday January 27th @ 10:00pm
FORMAT: Word document or PDF, 3 pages MAXIMUM, 1" margins (all sides), 12-point font (Times New Roman, Arial), and double-spaced (APA format). Please include a title page (title page is not included in 3-page maximum).
INSTRUCTIONS:

- Provide your selected educational myth/misconception in a clear statement and explain how you are understanding this myth/misconception by providing your positionality, defining key terms, and considering who you are planning to recruit to participate in your research
- Provide an annotated bibliography for 2 reputable sources in a concise 5-6 sentence summary that outlines what is being discussed, summarizes key points that are being made, and the relevance to education practice. If your source is an article, please provide the research question and an explanation of the methodology and findings as you summarize the key points.
- Provide the full APA reference for the source before summarizing it.

Debunking a Myth through Research Part 2 (10%)
DUE: Monday March 3rd @ 10:00pm
FORMAT: Word document or PDF, 1" margins (all sides), 12-point font (Times New Roman, Arial). Please include a title page.
INSTRUCTIONS:

- Write an introduction paragraph discussing your selected educational myth/misconception by explaining how you are understanding this myth/misconception, making sure to define the key terms in your explanation. Make sure to have clarity when explaining your educational myth/misconception based on how you are planning on researching the topic.
- Provide your Data Collection Tool aka your questionnaire/survey for **APPROVAL** (your questionnaire/survey must be approved before you start collecting participant's responses). Your questionnaire/survey should consist of a minimum of 5 questions (with response options if required) regarding your educational myth/misconception in addition to demographic questions (e.g., age, gender, etc.). Data collection tools will be dependent and specific on the research that is being planned and will be evaluated based on appropriateness and effectiveness. NOTE: when recruiting participants, they must be 18-years or older.

Please make sure to include the following disclaimer at the beginning of your questionnaire/survey with the consent question. Please make sure to tailor the disclaimer based on your research

Thank you for your interest in participating in this survey. This research is being conducted as part of a course requirement at the University of Toronto. In my course we are discussing educational myths, and this research pertains to uncovering further information regarding XX (provide the topic of your myth/misconception e.g., homework and academic success)*. Although this research has not been approved through UofT ethics, please be assured that this research contains no deception, your answers will be kept confidential, and your participation will be anonymous. The research results will only be shared with my peers and course instructor.*

This survey is specifically for: (provide inclusion criteria)

If you have any questions or concerns or required additional information, please email XX (provide your email address) or my course instructor (carly.prusky@utoronto.ca).

I consent to participate in this survey with the understanding that I am doing so voluntarily. I understand that responses will be kept confidential and at any time I can exit the survey if I do not wish to participate.

I agree to complete the survey
I opt not to complete the survey

Please make sure to include the following thank you at the end of your questionnaire/survey. Please make sure to tailor the thank you based on your research

Thank you for your time in completing this survey about XX (provide the topic of your myth/misconception e.g., homework and academic success). *Your contribution is much appreciated.*

Debunking a Myth through Research Part 3 (30%)

DUE: Monday March 24th @ 10:00pm

FORMAT: Word document or PDF, 10 pages MAXIMUM, 1" margins (all sides), 12-point font (Times New Roman, Arial), and double-spaced (APA format). Please include a title page with an interesting title for your research, an APA formatted reference page, and an Appendix with your data collection tool (title page is not included in 3-page maximum).

INSTRUCTIONS:

Conduct your research and write a research report with your findings that includes the following sections

Introduction (3-4 pages)

- Introduce your educational myth/misconception by explaining the topic and how you understand this myth/misconception.
- Provide context by including a review of at least 5 relevant and reputable resources highlighting the essential details, findings, and conclusions. Summarizing the information gathered and insights gained should inform about your educational myth/misconception and explain why this educational myth/misconception is problematic to education.
- "Funnel" the reader towards the research by first presenting general information about the educational myth/misconception and becoming increasingly more specific.

NOTE: You are welcome to include some of your own thoughts and opinions, but please be careful about how you are framing the information as it is important not to bias your introduction with unsubstantiated information.

Methods (1-2 pages)

- **Participants:** describe the participants in terms of the demographics by reporting their age, gender, and/or any other relevant demographic information that was collected
- **Materials:** present the materials used in the current study (e.g., questionnaire/survey questions).
  NOTE: your complete data collection tool should be included as an appendix
- **Procedure:** summarize each step involved in the execution of your research by including the order of completion of the tasks involved, the task duration, and a detailed account of how the data was collected based on the steps that were used

Findings/Results (1-2 pages)

- Summarize the data collected by reporting descriptive statistics (e.g., frequencies of nominal or ordinal responses, reporting the mean and standard deviation of continuous variables) or inferential statistical analysis or explaining the themes that emerged from the questions asked
- Explain what the findings mean by providing a reflective interpretation

NOTE: You are welcome to use APA formatted tables and figures (graphs) to aid the explanation

Discussion (1-2 pages)

- Discuss and evaluate your findings/results and connect back to the reviewed resources presented in the introduction by highlighting similarities and differences
- “Reverse-funnel” the reader by moving from specific statements about your research and then becoming increasingly more general about the educational myth/misconception.
- Provide a concluding paragraph with the most meaningful takeaways that debunks the educational myth/misconception and the importance/relevance to education