**CMN 10V Language & Communication Assignment\_Reading Original Research**

Selnow, G. W. (1985). Sex differences in uses and perceptions of profanity. *Sex Roles, 12,* 303-312.

1. What is the central question or issue of this study?
2. According to the abstract, do men or women use profanity more often?
3. According to the abstract, are men or women more likely to say that profanity is used to show social power?
4. According to the first paragraph of the paper, what are some of the functions profanity can play in language?
5. On p. 304, the authors describe some writings by Jesperson, who argued that women and men communicate differently in a number of ways. What role do Jesperson’s ‘findings’ play in the development of the authors’ research questions?
6. On p. 306-307, the authors pose five research questions. Choose two of those questions, and explain the rationale the authors present for each of them.
7. Research question 4 has two three key concepts: background characteristics, uses of profanity, and effects of profanity. How is each measured, according to the Methods section?
8. According to the Methods section, from what sort of city/town did most respondents come?
9. According to the results section, did male or female respondents hear more profanity from their brothers and sisters when they were children?
10. Among this study’s participants, who found profane words to be more obscene--young men or young women?
11. What is the “bottom line” to findings of this research, according to the discussion section?
12. Initially, the authors suggested that sex differences in profanity use were likely linked to a sort of strategic social use by men. According to the discussion section, what evidence from this study either supports or refutes this notion? Explain.
13. Post your response to question 6 on the Discussion for Language Assignment. After posting your response, other students’ responses will be visible. Read several, and post a reply to at least 2.