- To what extent are factors of attraction influenced by social contexts?
- To what extent is "hotness" a behavior or attitude that people can learn?

Finally, consider testing your theory about attraction by studying the profiles of users of online dating sites like Match, Tinder, OK Cupid, and so on.

3. Is TV Love Like Real-Life Love?: A Critical Analysis

Select two relationships you have seen portrayed in television shows and draft a critical analysis of them by drawing on theories about love from one of the readings in this chapter. As you write, you need to answer the questions "How do these relationships illustrate the theories about love from one of this chapter's authors?" and "What details about these relationships lead you to your analysis?" To help focus your analysis, consider choosing two relationships from the same category of TV shows: sitcoms, dramas, soap operas, or reality-based shows. As you develop your essay, work with the following questions:

- What is the nature of the love relationships between these characters? Are they flirtations? Are the couples newlyweds? Long married? On what social cues do the actors and the producers of the show rely to "tell" viewers what kind of relationships they are?
- What assumptions about romance appear to drive these love relationships forward? Will the relationships last? What details in the interactions between the characters lead you to your conclusions?
- In what ways do these relationships support a particular theory about romance from one of the readings in this chapter?

4. Interrogating Assumptions: What's Love Got to Do with It?

At the beginning of this chapter, you were introduced to four commonly held assumptions and challenged to reflect on some of the cultural attitudes influencing how we think about romance.

> Love conquers all.
>
> "Chemistry" = love.
>
> My true love will be my soul mate.
>
> True love is forever.

Each of the readings in this chapter questions one or more of these assumptions, asking "How do idealized notions of romance reflect American cultural values?" and "What is the meaning of romance in modern America?" For this assignment, develop a critical analysis of how two or three readings interrogate one of these assumptions.