

Relationships in the Media Assignment #1

Instructions: Listen to the podcast, and then answer the questions below. Each question should be answerable with 2-3 sentences, and each question is worth 2 points.

Podcast: <https://journals.sagepub.com/page/spr/podcasts/relationship-matters>

1. According to Dr. LeFebvre (the author of the article, “Swiping me off my feet”), how does Tinder make the relationship initiation process easier than dating face-to-face?
2. An interesting point Dr. LeFebvre brings up is that sometimes people don’t bother putting more information on their Tinder profile. What are the arguments she makes for why this “strategy” is 1) similar to what happens when people meet in real life, and 2) can actually be useful?
3. The hosts of the podcast also discussed how well these algorithms can predict good matches for people using their apps. Based on what we learned, do you think using an algorithm can lead to good matches? (Hint: There is a study in one of the Attraction lectures that addresses this idea.) If you think an algorithm would not work, what may work instead, or if you think an algorithm can work, what should this algorithm consider? Either way, support your answer with what we learned in class.
4. Pick one topic that we discussed previously in class (the attraction and relationship development lectures are particularly relevant, but any lecture is fine). Compare and contrast what dating is like via dating apps in general vs. in real life, according to the topic you pick. (For example, you can talk about how assessing physical attraction, mating preferences,

proximity, etc. are the same or different when you're dating with dating apps vs. in real life.)
You may also discuss the impact of social distancing on dating if that interests you.

5. Although this podcast is run by an academic journal, it is meant for a wider, non-academic audience. How accessible (or not accessible) did you feel this podcast is to an audience who may not be familiar with psychological research? Did you think this podcast was missing anything, or did you want them to talk about something that they didn't discuss?