

Reading discussion paper #3: Due April 25th**Contrasting views of the behavior of Neandertals:**

Please read Chapters 12-14 in Campbell *et al.* [Chapters 14 and 15 in *Humankind Emerging* (8th ed)] for background information on later Middle Pleistocene and early Upper Pleistocene hominids. In the past many researchers (the lumpers) have considered them as “archaic” *H. sapiens*. The splitters, including Campbell *et al.*, see them as representing multiple species, variously classified as *H. antecessor*, *H. heidelbergensis*, *H. neanderthalensis* and *H. sapiens* (although the known scant fossil record for the last only begins about 190,000 years ago).

Despite the splitters’ view that Neandertals represent a separate species, the absence of a significant archaeological record for the earliest *H. sapiens* (before about 50,000 years ago), encourages many researchers to view Neandertal behavior, for which we have a pretty good record, as a model for what early modern *sapiens* behaviors may have been like. Campbell *et al.*’s view is typical of the consensus view. In sharp contrast are the views of archaeologist Lewis Binford, presented in the popular science journal article by Fischman referenced below. Binford postulates a very distinctive “hunting” and gathering adaptation for Neandertals based on a gender based division of labor (or lack thereof).

After reflecting on the behaviors of the very large brained Neandertals that Campbell *et al.* describe, prepare a 4 to 5 page (double spaced) paper in response to Campbell and Loy’s and Binford’s discrepant views. Please think about and address the following issues in your paper. What are the Neandertal behaviors that still appear archaic, and which appear to verge on modernity and may likely have been shared with early modern *Homo sapiens*? What kind of adaptation is Binford proposing? In view of Isaac’s and Lovejoy’s arguments that food sharing and provisioning exist much earlier, not to mention Bingham’s view that large brains reflect complex coalitions!, how reasonable do you think Binford’s arguments about Neandertal social and economic behaviors may be? Can you think of alternative behavioral patterns that Neandertals might have exhibited that could have created the patterning in the artifacts and bones that Binford observed in the Combe Grenal sites?

Readings:

Fischman, J. 1992.

Hard Evidence. *Discover* 13(2):44-51. (February 1992)

Campbell, B., J. Loy and K. Uribe 2006.

Humankind Emerging. 9th Ed. Chapters 12 - 14.

or

Campbell, B. and Loy, J.D. 2000.

Humankind Emerging. 8th Ed. Chapters 14 and 15.

- N.B.:**
1. Number your pages
 2. Provide references to the sources of information presented in your paper, both in the text and in a “references cited” section.
 3. Proofread your paper carefully.