Religion and the Family

**Objective:**
1) Introduce students to the relationship between religion and the family
2) Explore how each social institution influences the other
3) Familiarize students with online research tools

**Activity:**
Explore with students various questions concerning the family using The ARDA’s online data archive. For example, examine the relationship between attitudes toward various family issues and religious behavior and affiliation. (divorce, cohabitation, planned pregnancy outside of marriage, adoption by gay couple, gay marriage, same religious affiliation, mothers shouldn’t work, using corporal punishment, using time-outs)

Using The ARDA’s data archive, examine other surveys and analyze the results of various questions within those surveys (Possible datasets to use: Faith and Family in America, 2005, Marital Instability Over the Life Course, National Survey of Family Growth, National Study of Youth and Religion)

**Assessment:**
Drawing upon what they now know, direct students to write a response paper to one of the Ahead of the Trend articles or another current article that discusses the connection between religion and the family. (Archived articles for Ahead of the Trend on religion and the family)

Direct students to read and then take the Rise in Interfaith Marriages Presents New Challenges quiz under the Religion Quizzes section of The Learning Center on The ARDA

**Suggested reading:**


