Please answer 3 of the following 5 questions:

1. An emerging literature focuses on the implications of family structure change or family instability on a host of child, adolescent, and young adult outcomes. Discuss the demographic patterns that have lead scholars to conceptualize family structure in this way, summarize the research that suggests that family instability matters to child well-being, and discuss how this research affects what we know about the role of family structure in children’s lives more generally.

2. Patterns of intermarriage can provide insights into the social distance between groups. Describe recent patterns of intermarriage by educational attainment in the United States and suggest reasons for these trends.

3. An emerging literature explores the significance of incarceration for family life. Discuss how incarceration shapes union formation and dissolution behaviors at both the individual and aggregate levels.

4. Family demographers have long relied on (and privileged) large, nationally representative data sets to document and understand American family life. More recently, a growing number of scholars are relying on smaller scale data collection efforts, many of which include a qualitative component. Discuss the theoretical and empirical factors that driving this shift.

5. A reporter for a national magazine has called you to discuss a recent Pew report. Two interesting findings in this report are that a) fertility rates among women over age 35 are increasing and b) that the percentage of births that are nonmarital is also on the rise. Describe how you would explain these trends.