

Human Development Activities

Choose at least TWO to complete. We will share our projects next class, Tuesday March 31, 2015

Childhood Video

Bring in a childhood video of yourself that illustrates some concept(s) of development discussed in Chapter 9. Show the video to class. Write a one page response on the concept(s) and how you are effectively/ineffectively showing it.

Kohlberg's Moral Stage of Development

Choose a child and tell them the appropriate story version for their age.

Mature version - This woman was very sick. One medicine might save her, a form of radium that a pharmacist in that same town had recently discovered. The pharmacist wanted a lot of money for the medicine. The sick woman's husband, Henry, went to everyone he knew to borrow money to buy the medicine to save his sick wife. But, he only got together half of what it cost. He told the pharmacist that his wife was dying and asked him to sell it at cheaper rate or allow him to pay later. The pharmacist said no. The husband got desperate and broke into the pharmacist's store to steal the medicine for his wife. Should he have done that? (Get them to explain their thinking). **Simple version** - Pretend your best friend is having a birthday party. Your friend lives just across the street and as you are going to the party the little boy who moved in next door has fallen down and is hurt and crying. If you stop to help him you will miss the cake and ice cream. What do you do? Why?

Write a one page reflection indicating the age of your participant, and whether or not your participant responded to the story as Kohlberg would have predicted. Please show me or email me a picture(s) of all AP Psych students who performed the test with the test subject.

Analyzing the Development of your Favorite TV Family

Choose a TV show that you watch regularly. Write a one page paper analyzing the behaviors of the members of this family in terms of some of the development concepts you have learned. You will bring in a short clip to familiarize the class with some of the behaviors you analyzed.

Parent Interview

Create ten questions for a parent about their memory of you as a child. These questions should relate to the concepts you learned about development in this chapter. For example: Did I reach my verbal milestones at the normal time? Early? Late? Or were any aspects of my physical development particularly early or late? For each question, explain the basis of the question according to the chapter and then explain your parent's answer.

Dear Abby as Case Studies in Developmental Psych

Find a specific personal advice column from the newspaper that can be connected to developmental psych concepts that you have learned in this unit. (ex: "My teenage daughter won't listen to me.") Prepare a one-page discussion paper in which you (1) concisely define the problem, (2) propose a solution or critique Abby's solution, and (3) relate the problem and solution to course concepts. Turn in the newspaper column with your written response.

Two Letters

Write two semi-autobiographical letters, one to a future child on the occasion of the child's 18th birthday and a second to your parent(s). This will provide an opportunity to discuss developmental issues from a personal, concrete perspective.

In the letter to your child, address the following issues:

1. When and why did you decide to have this child?
2. What are the most important characteristics of a parent, and why?
3. Which of your strengths would make you a successful parent?
4. Describe the qualities you hope your child will possess, and why you think these qualities are important.
5. State your dreams for your child and pass on any words of wisdom.

In the letter to your parent(s), cover the following issues:

1. Describe your general feelings about your present life and values and try to assess your parents' influence on you.
2. Describe three strengths of your parent(s).
3. Describe a weakness of your parents(s) or some characteristic that you would like to have changed.
4. Choose one or two areas of development- intellectual, moral, personality, social- in which your parents had the most influence and explain how or why.
5. Thank your parents for something special.

Ages and Stages Interview

Choose two people of very different ages (ex: a 7 year old and a 70 year old). Create a list of ten questions that you can ask both people. These questions should help you understand their interests, concerns, motivations, behaviors, and desires. Some examples of questions:

"What do you like about being your age?"

"If you were granted three wishes, what would they be?"

Write a one-page reflection about the answers they produced and what their answers tell you about the different ages. Please show me or email me a picture(s) of all AP Psych students who performed the test with the test subject.

Gender in Other Cultures

Choose a culture in which gender roles are very different from Western Culture. Write a one page paper outlining those differences and the belief system behind those differences. Attach photos of this culture. Please include a bibliography with at least two references.

Gender Differences in Smiling

Who smiles more in pictures- males or females? Put your opinion to the test. You will create an experiment to answer your hypothesis. Use a yearbook of your choice and tally at least 100 male and 100 female faces to get your results. What is your operational definition of *smile*? Indicate the yearbook publication date, location of school and ages of students (ex: all freshmen or a mix of classes). After you share your results comment on the significance of or possible reasons for the results.

Gender Differences on Motor Skills Tasks

Conduct a demonstration in front of the class to stimulate discussion of gender differences. Think of a toy (ex: a Barbie Doll) that is played with mostly by girls. Conduct a speed trial between boys and girls- who can dress Barbie fastest? Think of a toy (ex: Transformer) that is played with mostly by boys. Conduct a speed trial between boys and girls- who can transform the toy fastest? You choose how many toys you want to use and how many volunteers you want to bring up.

Birthday Cards and Aging

Investigate the attitudes about aging reflected in birthday cards. After first asking permission of the manager in the store, you will analyze 20 birthday cards for people 18 and over. Describe each card's content, target age, and indicate its connotation about aging. Write a one page reflection about the messages we send each other about birthdays and aging.

Attitudes toward the Elderly

Poll at least 25 high school students asking them to think of three words that come to mind when they hear "old person." Divide all 75 words into three columns: positive, negative or neutral. Report your findings and write a one page reflection on attitudes of teenagers toward the elderly. Some questions to consider:

Were you surprised by the results?

What do the results indicate about teens' views of old people?

What do you think leads people to have positive or negative opinions of old people?

How can we help people to see the elderly in a more positive light?