

### Developmental Psychology Assignment

This assignment is equal in weight to a test, but may not be dropped. It is due in class on October 28. Points will be subtracted for papers turned in after class on October 28 (more points will be subtracted for each day it is late). You will earn 2 extra credit points if your paper is received by the end of class time on October 19.

Your paper should be type, double-spaced (these instructions are typed 1.5-spaced, by the way) with a font size of 12 or larger, and checked for proper English usage (as this will be a small component of the grade). I prefer you staple your paper together, rather than put it into a folder. I also recommend making a copy of your paper before handing it in, to guard against inadvertent loss by either of us.

Background: Developmental psychologists look at people at different stages of life:

Infancy	0 - 2	Young adulthood	20s – early 40s
Early childhood	2 - 5	Middle adulthood	40s – 60s
Middle childhood	6 - 12	Late adulthood	late 60s and up
Adolescence	teens- early 20s		

#### **The assignment:**

1. First, tell me what **stage of life** you are in and **your age**. If you think you are in a stage of life different than psychologists would place you from the table above, you must explain why. Then, think about two or three big personal decisions you feel faced with (or issues that you are grappling with) at this time in your life. This is asking for **personal** decisions/issues, not world issues of interest or concern to you. Describe what the issues/decisions are in a paragraph or two (or three).
2. Find two or three people older than yourself (they **must also be in a different life stage than yourself**; they must be at least 5 years older also) and ask them what are two or three personal issues/decisions that they are grappling with. **Summarize** (rather than quote the people) these issues in a paragraph or

two. Be sure to include what age and stage of life each person is in, according to the above list.\*\*

3. Find two or three people younger than yourself (they **must also be in a different life stage than yourself**; they must be at least 5 years younger than you as well) and ask them what are two or three personal issues/decisions that they are grappling with. **Summarize** these issues in a paragraph or two, including the ages and stages of life of each of the people. \*\* Note: you will not be able to use the infancy stage nor the early end of the early childhood stage, since the child would not be able to understand your question (and it is not accurate to get information from someone else, such as a parent, about the individual's problems, decisions, struggles, or issues). If you reword a question for a younger participant, make sure it is getting at the same information. For example, do not ask them just what interests them, but instead what they are having a hard time deciding.
  
4. Think about how the issues change as people get older. Discuss in a paragraph or two how the problems or issues of each of the generations are different and similar. Describe any trends that you can see from your small sample, as people age. Don't forget to include yourself in this trend.

\*\*If you cannot find anyone who fits the life stage in questions 2 or 3, double the number of people from the other stages (**do not use anyone from your own stage**, however). In other words, if you can find no one at a younger life stage than you, find 4 - 6 people at an older one (or visa versa). It **is** preferable to find at least one at each, however. If you **only** use people at stages older **or** younger than your own and not both (or less than two of both), please **inform me early in the paper** that you are doing this (otherwise I search for missing pages and reduce your grade, thinking you did not complete the assignment). Also, if you only use people from stages older than yourself, please be sure to use **MORE** than one stage older than yourself (otherwise people are so close together in age that you will not see the variety that the assignment is aiming for).