

For this assignment, you will interview one person who is an adolescent (i.e., 12 to 18 years). You will develop a series of interesting and informative questions about the experience of adolescence using your textbook. Your questions should focus on the experience of all three domains of development: physical, cognitive, and social-emotional development. After the interview, you will answer the interview questions yourself.

Conducting the Interview: For the interview itself, you should spend time with the adolescent who is the subject of your interview. This can be in person, by Face Time, or by phone call; however, do not simply interview another family member about their child, a friend about their sibling, or rely on your memory about a past encounter with that person. Prior to the interview, you will:

Prepare at least 10 -12 theoretically-based questions (open-ended) or tasks for your interviewee ahead of the interview using your notes and textbook. Questions/tasks should reflect all three domains of development: biological, cognitive, and social-emotional development. You should have at least 2-3 questions/topics/tasks for each domain that you can include in your paper.

Interviews are more successful when the interviewer follows these steps:

1. **Formulates objectives:** Decide what kinds of information you want to get to answer your question. You should use your textbook, course notes, and Power Point notes to decide on age-appropriate, theoretical aspects of development.

2. **Develops a format:** There are two kinds of questions: restricted/closed and open-ended. Restricted questions require a specific answer in few words (e.g., “yes/no”, age). Open-ended questions include questions where respondents answer in their own words. You should use mostly open-ended questions so that that you get more information than “yes” or “no.” Remember to use follow-up questions such as “why?” when conducting your interviews.

3. **Develops appropriate theoretical questions ahead of the interview:**

Keep these points in mind when you design the questions you will ask your respondents:

- Make questions clear and keep the vocabulary appropriate to the age and education of your interviewee.
- Don’t ask about embarrassing or sensitive information, unless you know your respondent well enough to ask these questions. Keep in mind that because interviewees are minors that parents or guardians should review the questions first.
- Focus on what you want to know, keeping your goals in mind; keep questions theoretical.
- You should have some questions that focus on physical development, some that focus on cognitive development, and some that focus on social/emotional development. If you aren’t sure, ask me!

Writing the Paper: Write a typed APA-style paper (minimum of 7 pages = minimum of 5 full pages of text per interview + title page + APA style reference page) that addresses the assigned prompts. Your paper should include information about all three domains of development (physical/biological, cognitive, & socio-emotional). It will be graded based on a [rubric](#). References and parenthetical citations should follow APA style.

Compare and contrast your interviewees’ own experience to your own and **relate your findings to the readings in the text (include at least 6 specific examples-- 2 per domain)**. For example, you might consider whether there were gender differences or age/temporal differences in responses. Did responses vary based on the geographical area in which the person was raised? Be sure to include a brief description of your interviewee (age, gender, location); do not use real names.

1. **Cover Sheet/Title Page:** an APA-style cover sheet that includes title and your name.

2. **Content of Interview Paper:** Provide the following information in your paper. This part should be a minimum of 5 full pages of text.

a. **Introduction:** In the first paragraph, tell me

a. *who* you interviewed (no real names, just describe them),

- b. their *age*,
 - c. how you found them or know them,
 - d. how much *time* you spent with them,
 - e. *how and where* you interviewed them (e.g., by phone, in person, over lunch, etc.).
 - f. Your *goals* in interviewing this person.
 - g. What did you *think* you would find out?
- b. **Interview(s) and Connections:** *Summarize* your interview with the person. This should include information from your questions about biological/physical, cognitive, and psychosocial development of the person. Do not simply include the questions and transcribed answers verbatim. I don't want a transcript of the interview in your paper. Because you should have used the relevant chapters in your book to formulate questions for your interview, all of your questions and interviewee responses should be relevant to the development of your interviewee. You should explicitly and intentionally make those connections to your book and notes in your paper. **Relate your interview back to the information provided in your textbook. Be specific about how your interviewee's responses relate to class content and cite your textbook.** You should have at minimum 6 instances where you can make connections between your interviewee's responses and course content. This means that you must specific about how your interviewee's development relates to information in your textbook and Power Point notes and what information from your textbook about development corresponds to the responses provided by your interviewee; cite your textbook using APA style for each in stance.
- c. **Theorists:** Which 2 or 3 *theorists* in your textbook helped you to best understand your interviewee? How so? Be specific. Were there any theorists/theories that you did not find you agreed with? Why? You should have evidence from your interview that a particular theorist is relevant.
- d. **Comparison to Your Development During Adolescence:** Compare your adolescent experience/development with that of your interviewee. You should make at least 5 explicit comparisons regarding physical/biological, cognitive, and social demotional development using the questions you asked of your interviewee.
- e. **Conclusion:** In you final paragraph, tell me what you *learned*. Answer each of the following prompts below.
- a. What can you conclude about your interviewee's development or about development at this particular point in time?
 - b. How typical of others in this age group is your interviewee?
 - c. What contextual variables may have played a role in your interviewee's development?
 - d. Were there any surprises?
 - e. How did what you learned about development at this point in time help you understand adolescence?
 - f. How did what you learn help you understand yourself better?
 - g. What information about adolescent development can you take with you from this interview?

3. Reference Page: Because you will be discussing the theorists discussed in your textbook and/or other sources and making connections to your textbook, you will need to have a reference page. This page needs to be [APA style](#). This page should come at the end of your paper on a separate page. Remember that you will also need to provide in-text citations throughout your paper when referencing information from the textbook; use APA style for this (Santrock et al., 2021). You are not expected to read any other materials to conduct your interviews.

4. Questions: Include a typed copy of the *questions* you asked your interviewee in a separate dropbox submission. Do not include it in your paper.

- **Note: For each interview, you should have 2 dropbox submissions: (1) your paper; and (2) your questions.**

OTHER FORMAT CONSIDERATIONS:

- You must use 12-point font size and double space. Use of any font size greater than 12-point Times Roman font will cause you to lose points.
- Be thorough but concise.

- Make sure to follow APA guidelines (e.g., title page, headings, references in text, reference page; an abstract is not necessary).
- Include all information listed above; check the rubric to ensure you have included all required information
- Consider clarity of ideas, writing style, grammar, and spelling. Please proofread your paper carefully and use a grammar program before submitting each paper.
- Very important – discuss issues related to your textbook in your paper.

The following rubric will be used to grade interview papers. [Three Generations Interview Paper Rubric \(to be used to grade each interview paper\)](#)

ETHICS

- It is important to remember at all times that you are a student at MTSU and should be courteous, respectful, and polite. You should consider issues related to confidentiality. Make sure your interviewees understand that their anonymity will be maintained (avoid using last names or providing identifying information about your subjects), and their confidentiality respected.