Paper & Group Presentation. *(Skills: Responsibility, Initiative, & Independence)*

- Topics include: Technology and Development, Gender Differences (& Similarities), Brain Development/ Neuropsychology, Chemical substances & toxins, Developmental Psychopathology, Physical Exercise/Movement & Development, and Intervention Science & Social Policy

- Individual Assignment:
  - Paper: Within one of the broad topics above that is assigned to your group choose one age range and write a 5-6 page paper about a relevant research study. Find your study by looking for MEDIA articles (i.e. news articles) about your topic that reports on a specific research study. Then find (through the library) the corresponding RESEARCH article that your news article reports on. Compare and contrast the two articles in your paper. Additionally, briefly summarize the findings, methods, and research design. Based on your knowledge from class identify strengths and weaknesses of the method and the design. Relate the findings to a class theme, principle, and/or metamodel.
  - Group Discussion: On your group’s assigned day be prepared to lead a small group discussion with members of the class about your broad topic and your paper topic.

- Group Assignment:
  - As a group prepare a 10-15 minute presentation about your broad topic. In addition, each member should present (each member should talk during the presentation) the main findings from their research article that they report on in their paper. Choose one metamodel that best explains how your topic affects development.
Paper and Presentation Organizational Outline Lifespan 220

For illustration in explaining the paper consider the following topic, "Fathers who actively engage in raising their children can help make their offspring smarter and better behaved, according to new research from Concordia University," taken from the example article on moodle.

Papers should be typed in 12 point Times New Roman font with 1 inch margins. Turn in a printed copy of your paper and a photocopy of your research article on the day you discuss and present.

1) APA style Title Page

2) Introduction: Describe the topic in detail, including information from your textbook (3-4 paragraphs, about one page) what is the background of your topic & why is it important?

   i) For example, why do we care about fathers in development? How does being a having a father in one’s life affect development in general? Your book will likely have good background information on your topic (e.g. pg 190).

   ii) What theme(s) or concept is it related to that we discussed in class? Which major principle of development and/or metamodel helps us to understand your topic?

   (1) In our example you would most likely choose to talk about Bronfenbrenner’s bioecological model as a father figure is a microsystem influence.

   (2) In addition, you could choose principle number 2 (Physical, Cognitive and Socioemotional Development are interrelated) to describe how the parenting relationship of the father affected the cognitive domain.

3) Main Body of Paper: Critical Thinking (about 4 pages)

   a) Describe the research. (Read the hypotheses, methods section, skim the results, and read the discussion of your journal article carefully to write this section)

      i) What kind of methodology (surveys, interviews observation etc.) was used? And what are the strengths and weaknesses of your study based on the methods that they used?

      ii) What kind of design (correlational, quasi-experimental, experimental) was employed?

         (1) And what are the strengths and weaknesses of your study based on the design that they used?

         (2) What conclusions can be made? In other words, can cause and effect be claimed?

         (3) For example, active engagement from fathers predicts better behavior and higher intellectual abilities as they grew older. Careful reading of the journal article revealed there was no comparison between groups, or random assignment. Thus, the finding is correlational and not a cause and effect relationship.
(4) What kind of developmental design was used? (cross-sectional, longitudinal, sequential?)

(a) If no developmental design was used, how is that a limitation of the study?

(b) If a developmental design was used, what are the relative strengths and limitations of that design as it pertains to your study?

(5) What were the main findings?

b) Critically compare the original research article with the journalist article. How accurately did the journalist represent the findings and the limitations? Did the journalist exaggerate? Did they overstate the conclusion?

2) Conclusion (3 to 4 paragraphs, about 1 page)

a) What questions remain unanswered regarding your topic in your mind?

b) What are the next steps you would propose for a future study—tell me what that study would look like (maybe you would suggest observational methods if that has not been done or a quasi-experiment to get a closer idea of cause and effect, be specific)

c) What is the take away message for the class on this research based on your analysis? What is the main point you would “teach” the class about this issue and how it informs us about development. What does it illustrate from class?

d) Can and how should this research be applied in the real world to help people?

3) References (start on a separate page)

a) Provide an APA style references for both your media and your journal article.

4) Discussion Questions (start on a separate page)

a) Prepare a list of about five thought provoking discussion questions for your group.

b) Some general ideas for to get you started writing discussion questions:

(1) What kind of method/design/developmental design etc. did you think this was. Discuss disagreements.

(2) Based on the methods/design, what can be concluded—can you determine cause (pose this question to the group and help them understand why or why not based on your reading of the journal article).

(3) Discuss how the media article exaggerated or left out information. Develop questions for your group based on the differences you found.

(4) Discuss what the implications of the findings are—who could they help? Who should know about them (teachers, parents, doctors etc.)

(5) After reading this article did you think of ways of changing your own life?
(6) How does this finding/research connect to themes/topics from the class?

(7) Could this research be translated into an intervention strategy? (A program informed by research that could be sponsored by a nonprofit or by the government that is instituted in hospitals, schools, or other programs that is designed to change people’s lives for the better.)