

Theorist 'Rap' Assignments

Child Development

Developing a growing understanding of the major theorists in the field of Child Development is one of the goals of this class. In this introductory project, you will be introduced to these key theorists. Then, throughout our survey of child development the theorists will be re-visited as they apply to each stage of development, infancy through adolescence.

Steps to Completing this Project:

1. Our class will be divided into 4-7 groups, with each group being assigned one of the theorists we will be studying. These theorists include: Jean Piaget, Erik Erikson, Lev Vygotsky, Uri Bronfenbrenner, Sigmund Freud, B. F. Skinner, Albert Bandura.
2. Each group should read the textbook information regarding their theorist/s, along with the additional handouts in the Theorist Packet provided. Your goal is to become as knowledgeable as possible about your theorist/s, his/their theory/theories, and the significance of these theory in the field of human development.
3. After your research, you are to prepare a 'rap' sheet (similar to what the FBI may produce when looking for a criminal) that tells the theorists' name, country of origin, birth/death dates, where their work was completed, and a graphic depiction of the basic tenants of their theory. For example, when we think of Maslow's theory, we think of the pyramid usually used to depict it. If no depiction exists, your group is challenged to come up with something that helps the class to remember the theory. Your 'rap' sheet should be no longer than 1-page, with the picture of your theorist taking up no more than ¼-page. These 'rap' sheets will be turned in to Mrs. Seward and copies for the entire class will be distributed.
4. Your group needs to plan a presentation where your theorist is introduced to the class. One group member should play the theorist. Extra credit will be given if your theorist is in an appropriate costume. Group members and the theorist should script a 5-minute interview between the theorist and the group members (interviewers) that will communicate the important aspects of the theory to the class.
5. After receiving your packet of everyone's rap sheets and listening to each of the theorist presentations, you are assigned to compose a paragraph on the back of each rap sheet discussing the significance of that theory to the field of human development. Be sure to answer the following questions: What is the name of your theorist? What aspects of human development is this person best known for (social/emotional, physical, cognitive)? What aspects of the theory do you agree with? Disagree with? Why/why not? What makes this theory unique? How is the theory useful in understanding human development? Are there any controversial aspects of the theory or is it generally agreed upon as accurate? What aspects of human behavior does the theory not address?
6. These Theorist 'Rap' Sheets will be part of your portfolio for this class. They should be reviewed periodically throughout the term. For your final evaluation in this class you will be expected to apply useful aspects of several theories in practical situations.