

Adapted from Pamela Hammond's assignment

Development Psychology: A Timeline of My Life

You will be/have been learning about what psychologists have to say about the human life cycle. Some theories that you will learn or have learned include Piaget's theory of cognitive development, Kohlberg's theory of moral development and especially Erikson's Stage theory. Your assignment is to create a timeline outlining the events of your life and your life to come and put them into a scrapbook. How are you going to do this? First, think about what you have learned about human development. How do you think this has played out in your life so far? How do you think it will play out in the future?

Put together a scrapbook on your life as it has happened so far and how you imagine it will be. The scrapbook should be at least 8½ x 11 inches or you may use a typical scrapbook if you like. It should have a cover/binder if you will be using regular unlined paper. (You may complete this in PowerPoint if you'd like and send me an electronic copy of the project AND print out the slides four to a page. Be careful to use fonts and colors that are easily to read.)

Page 1: Title page. Name, period, etc. Decorate this page...be creative, use pictures, events...

Page 2: Your birth. Where were you born? Who are your parents? Your culture? Your brothers and sisters? How are the circumstances of your birth significant to your life? Include pictures.

Each page after that: will be a decade in your life from 0 until age 89 or 90. Yes, in this version of your life, you will live to a ripe old age. On each page you must include:

- At least 2-3 significant events that have happened or will happen to you that have had or will have an impact on your development as a person, with a few sentences about why they are significant. They should be in paragraph form written in the past tense.
- Illustrations. These can be photographs, or pictures cut from magazines, or cartoons or something that relates to the stage. Use as many personal photos as possible. (Geometric designs, PowerPoint backgrounds will not suffice.)
- Each page should be labeled with the decade you are depicting.
- At the bottom of the page, you must put the stage or stages of development for that age according to Piaget, Kohlberg, and Erikson (for example, on the page from age 20 to 30, you would write "Intimacy vs. Isolation" at the bottom). NOTE: Some decades will have more than one stage. Some decades will have the same stage as other decades.

I know that you cannot predict the future — but you can imagine it. What will happen? What kind of future do you want to create? This is your big chance to imagine it! Remember: it is totally stupid to lose in your own fantasies. Of course, every life has unpredictable, unfortunate things that happen. Please keep these to a minimum when you imagine your future. You truly do create your own future.

Have fun with this assignment.