ALBIZU UNIVERSITY
PSYM 510 HUMAN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT - ONLINE
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Case Study Analysis Guidelines

Introduction

A case study analysis is a type of research that focuses on one person, one event or even a group. It is very subjective and describes aspects of the subject's behavior and experiences. For this assignment, the developmental aspects of your subject's life span will be described through the use of an interview that will result in a case study analysis. The type of case study for this assignment is called **a *descriptive case study***, which starts with a theory, such as the developmental theories found in the course textbook. In descriptive case studies, information is gathered and then compared to pre-existing theories.

The Subject and the Interview

For this assignment, you will be applying **Erik Erikson's psychosocial stages** to the lifespan development of an individual (not a family member) that you will be interviewing. You must inform the person (informed consent) that you are interviewing him or her for a class project. Let them know that you are in the process of learning and that you will not present any conclusions about them, nor reveal their identity. You may need to do a second interview, and you should follow up on any questions raised in the first interview.

The best way to approach the interview is to write a list of open-ended questions, based on the Eriksonian stages, that you would like to ask. However, you should remain flexible during the interview(s) because sometimes **valuable insights** come out of the process.

The subject you choose should be someone who has at least reached Erikson's Middle Age stage of "Generativity versus Stagnation". Your interview should take you, as the researcher, and your subject on a journey through the different stages of the life span from the earliest memories to the present. **For each stage, beginning with their FIRST TWO YEARS, you should discuss the specifics of the Eriksonian stage and indicate whether the "crisis" or turning point of the stage was successfully mastered.**

Ask your subject to give you information about important events, milestones or memories that impacted their development. Ask them about the specific developmental tasks that are listed in the text for each of the Eriksonian stages. **Describe each of these in your final paper as indicated below. PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU ARE NOT EXPECTED, NOR SHOULD YOU, COUNSEL THE SUBJECT DURING THIS ASSIGNMENT.**

The Written Assignment

The assignment consists of writing a paper **5 full pages minimum in length, double-spaced**, describing the information you gathered.

Start your paper with an "**Introduction of the Subject**" that includes gender, age, temperament, religious upbringing, ethnicity, socio-economic status, family logistics and functioning, and any other information that will help to "set the stage" for the information to be presented. **AT NO TIME SHOULD YOU USE THE SUBJECT'S NAME. PLEASE USE THEIR INITIALS OR A MADE-UP NAME.**

Following the Introduction, for **each** of the Eriksonian stages, you will need to briefly describe the following:

- The name of the stage , an **explanation of the stage** and its tasks, and the "crisis" to be mastered
- How the subject's development progressed throughout the specific stage
- Successes and challenges faced by the subject in mastering the stage
- How the subject's behavior at a specific chronological age related to the developmental stage (For example, were they "ahead" of the stage or lagged behind as it related to their age.)
- How appropriate were the behaviors/reactions/beliefs during the stage

A cover sheet with your name and title of the assignment, as well as excellent grammar, are expected for this assignment, which is worth 10 points of your final grade.

IMPORTANT!! The paper and presentation will be evaluated using the criteria of appropriate application of the Eriksonian psychosocial stages and NOT on how well you tell your subject's life story.

For the explanations of the Eriksonian stages, **please use the course textbook**. To help you identify important pages in the book, below is a short list of some of the best places containing information that is expected for this assignment.

- **Page 38** of the text has an excellent table that briefly summarizes all the stages and the approximate ages for each stage;
- **Pages 262-264** discuss details of the Initiative vs Guilt stage (3-6 years);
- **Pages 435-439** have a great explanation with specific information during the adolescent years (the Identity vs Role Confusion stage);
- **Page 520** has an excellent table indicating the pathology that may result if a stage is not successfully mastered;
- **Page 614** has another excellent table for the 4 stages in adulthood with very specific tasks that should be mastered; and
- **Pages 700-701** discuss Integrity vs Despair, the stage for older adults.