

OPTION 3: A DICTATOR'S NEGLECT

Romania under the dictator Nicolae Ceaușescu had a no-abortion policy from 1966 to 1989. As described in Leavitt and Dubner's 2005 book *Freakonomics*, this created a situation where many unwanted babies were left at understaffed orphanages. Without adequate adult care, many children grew up neglected, often not even being picked up from their cribs.

Your task is to research the effects of this neglect and to describe the resulting developmental delays by using the principles and terms that you've acquired from the first four modules of this course.

OPTION 4: HEALING A BLIND PERSON

In the movie *At First Sight*, Val Kilmer plays a man who has been blind since birth. As an adult, Kilmer's character undergoes a life-changing operation to restore his eyesight. Explain the recovery process in terms of principles and in terms of sensory development. Bonus marks will be awarded for other real-life case examples of similar sensory recoveries (not just sight).

OPTION 5: REPLICATING PIAGET

Piaget's theory of cognitive development has been foundational in the field of developmental psychology. Conduct a small study test of one of Piaget's principles. Describe (1) what you did, (2) the results, and (3) an explanation of what happened.

- If you have access to a child aged 2 to 7, you should try a **preoperational** stage experiment. A description of this stage is covered on pages 192–194.
- If you have access to a child aged 7 to 11, you should try a **concrete operational** stage experiment. A description of this stage is covered on page 194.
- If you have access to a child aged 11 or older, you should try a **formal operational** stage experiment. A description of this stage is covered on pages 195–196.

Hint: Use Internet search engines to find simple and interesting experiments that replicate aspects of Piaget's theory of cognitive development.