

**LAGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SOCIAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

Developmental Psychology I
Dr. Lily Shohat
Spring Session I, 2002

Term Paper: Developmental autobiography

- Write a developmental autobiography in which you trace your personality development. The paper should be about 5-7 typewritten pages (double-spaced, one inch borders). The paper is divided into three parts:

Part I

Write about your childhood and adolescence, go back as early as you can remember. Please be sure to focus on your own recollections and not what other people have recounted to you about yourself. Write about the experiences that are the most significant for you and how they influenced you or changed you. For example, if your parents got divorced, what impact did it have on you in terms of your emotional relationship to your parents; did it affect your performance in school? Did it have an impact on your social relationships? Did it affect your self-esteem, and so on. You can be as detailed and/or personal as you feel comfortable with. Do not list events; try to analyze their impact on you.

- This portion represents 5% of your total grade.
- This part is due 3/26/02

Part II

Describe Erikson's fourth stage (Industry vs. Inferiority) and fifth stage (Identity vs. Role Confusion). Please use at least three other sources than the assigned books, preferably at least one reference drawn directly from Erikson's writings. Please attach the references to this part of the assignment.

- This portion represents 15% of your total grade.
- This part is due on 4/30/02

Part III

Review what you have written on Parts I and II, as well as my comments to identify key themes in your life. Relate these themes to Erikson's theory, focusing either on the fourth stage (Industry vs. Inferiority) or the fifth stage (Identity vs. Role Confusion). Include one paragraph of background information about yourself.

- As stated earlier, at least five sources should be incorporated into your paper, preferably at least one reference drawn directly from Erikson's writings. You must have a bibliography listing at the end of your paper.
- You need to include footnotes for all references or quotes.
- This portion represents 15% of your total grade.
- The first draft is due for peer review on 5/16/02.
- The final draft is due on 5/23/02.