

Paper #3: FIELD WORK ANALYSIS

The purpose of this paper is to use a specific developmental perspective as a means to understand with more depth and complexity what you are observing in your field work (i.e. constructivist, social constructivist, social learning, etc). You should also use your investigation of the developmental characteristics of children and youth at your field placement, along with and other large topics that you have explored as part of your work for this program to inform your analysis. A second portion of your paper will broaden the view to show how other developmental perspectives would raise different questions or propose different interpretations of the same observed incidents or patterns.

Your paper will describe and analyze 2-3 specific items from your observation— incidents, interactions, ongoing processes, and conversations—that you think are more fully understood in light of certain developmental concepts from the specific perspective you have chosen. Think of each these items that you describe and analyze as a separate part of your paper. Be sure to explain the concepts that you use in creating your analysis (don't take for granted that your reader understands the concepts exactly as you do). And, as you move one by one through the parts of your paper, work to build a larger vision of how this developmental perspective can be applied usefully to students of the age you observed.

At the end of your paper, please add a final separate section in which you evaluate the usefulness of this developmental perspective in relation to your fieldwork. Consider questions such as: What observations are *not* readily explained by this developmental perspective? What still remains problematic, as you seek deeper understanding of learning and development? What other developmental or cognitive approaches might be helpful in gaining a more sophisticated understanding of what you observed? Refer specifically to theorists and concepts as you develop ideas for this section of your paper.

We hope that your field journal will be useful as you develop ideas for this paper. Therefore we urge you to choose your developmental focus early and make a particular effort to observe within that developmental area. We also urge you to use your field-work discussion group as a place to raise questions and topics related to the developmental material you hope to explore. Finally, be sure to use the writing center as you work to generate, organize and articulate the ideas for this paper.

Note: It is important that you do not use students' actual names in your paper. You may be able to refer to students generically (e.g. one student, a tall girl, etc.), or you may choose to assign fictitious names. Please take appropriate measures here (as elsewhere) to protect the privacy and anonymity of all students in your classes.

Length: 5-7 pages

Due Dates:

Description and analysis of first item: week 9 - Monday Nov 28th

Final paper: week 10 - Wednesday Dec 7th