



Student Interview Paper 2

In the first student interview paper you were asked to adopt and interview a first-year student and assess aspects of his or her psychosocial development. For the second student interview paper, you will need to interview two students, a first-year (who can be the same student you interviewed previously) and a senior or graduate student. The purpose of this assignment is for you to examine and juxtapose cognitive and structural development between two students. This paper should not be a mere report of findings from a series of interviews. Instead, you should analyze the findings from your conversations in the context of the readings and classroom discussions from this course, specifically from March 17th and 24th. *It is important that you back up your analysis with evidence!*

In this paper, you will need to focus on what the students define as knowledge, how they assess the worth and credibility of knowledge and new information, who or what influences their values, how they justify and defend their values, and how they make sense of their own learning style and ability to learn and succeed in college. In addition, you should also try and gauge to what extent, if at all, your students have developed a contextual understanding of knowledge construction and how they deal with dissenting viewpoints from peers and other individuals salient in their lives (e.g., parents, professors, etc.). While talking with your students, look for critical incidents and environmental factors that may have influenced their cognitive development.

Please note that the cognitive, moral, and spiritual development of students is very much interconnected. An exemplary paper will explore and explain these relationships as they pertain to the students.

Hint: An easy way to assess students' development with respect to cognition, morality, and spirituality, may be to ask them about many of America's contemporary social issues (e.g. abortion rights, stem cell research, gay marriage, speech codes on college campuses) However, if you choose to do this, please pay attention specifically to the thought processes and reasons for adopting and justifying their views instead of their particular stance on an issue.

This assignment is worth 25% of your grade. The paper should be roughly 10 pages (no less than 8, no more than 12). As usual, APA format is required. This assignment is due at the beginning of class on April 7th.