

**Childhood Research Paper**  
**Due: September 3 at 11:59pm**

- 1) Interview 2 people about their childhood using the attached questionnaire. Be sure to audio record your interviews and take detailed notes. You may choose to interview yourself as one of the 2 people. You may also choose to interview your classmates. I recommend interviewing people you live with, or otherwise scheduling a telephone or Zoom interview.
- 2) Utilizing both participants' experiences, discuss whether you believe children are passive or active participants in the socialization process. You will likely conclude that children play both a passive and an active role in their upbringing. Provide several examples from your interviews and connect your results to at least 3 course readings or videos.
- 3) Write the results in a paper using the following format:

**INTRODUCTION (1 paragraph)**

Briefly describe the popular childhood sociology debate regarding whether children are passive or active participants in their socialization process. Please include and underline your thesis statement, which should acknowledge your research method, specify your position in the passive vs. active debate, and mention the sources you will be using to strengthen your argument.

**METHOD (1 paragraph)**

Provide a detailed step-by-step description of what you did. How did you select your interviewees? How long did your interviews last? What types of questions did you ask?

**SAMPLE (2 paragraphs)**

Provide a detailed description of both of your interviews. Summarize and provide examples about the main topics discussed in each interview. What topics were they particularly excited to talk about? Did they share any compelling stories? Were there aspects of their identities (e.g. race, gender, sexuality) that significantly influenced their experiences? For each interviewee, would you say they played an active, passive, or mixed role in their childhood?

**DISCUSSION (3-6 paragraphs)**

Connect your results to at least 3 course readings or videos. Use quotes from your interviews and evidence from readings and videos to defend whether you believe children play a passive, active, or mixed role in their socialization process. You should demonstrate a thorough understanding of course material in this section.

**CONCLUSION (1 paragraph)**

Summarize your findings and convince the reader that your argument is correct.

**REFERENCES**

Please include in-text citations and a reference list, following ASA guidelines.

In-text citation guidelines:

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/using\\_research/formatting\\_in\\_sociology\\_asa\\_style/in\\_text\\_citation\\_references.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/using_research/formatting_in_sociology_asa_style/in_text_citation_references.html)

Reference page guidelines:

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/using\\_research/formatting\\_in\\_sociology\\_asa\\_style/references\\_page\\_formatting.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/using_research/formatting_in_sociology_asa_style/references_page_formatting.html)

If referencing a course video, please adhere to the following format:

In-text: (Children and Families 2020)

Reference List: Berghaus, Abbey. 2020. Children and Families. Lecture Video.

## SUBMISSION

Essays should be submitted on Canvas under the “Assignments” tab by September 3 at 11:59pm.

## INTERVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE

This is a loose guide. You may adapt the interview questionnaire to better suit your needs. Your goal is to talk to your participant for 20-30 minutes. Please remember to thank your interviewees for participating in this research. You must ask them to provide verbal consent to be audio recorded. Do not push your interviewee to talk about anything that makes them uncomfortable. Childhood is not always a time of innocence or happiness, and I urge you to be respectful and sensitive.

1. Can you describe, in general, what your childhood was like?
2. Would you describe yourself as well-behaved or naughty? Why?
3. What was your family like when you were a kid?
4. Think of a time when your parents or guardians punished you. What rule did you break, and how did they punish you?
5. Think of a time when your parents or guardians rewarded you. What did they reward you for, and how?
6. What were your favorite and least favorite parts about school when you were a kid?
7. Did you ever get in trouble at school? If so, why? What happened?
8. Did you ever purposefully break the rules at home or at school? If so, what rules did you break? What happened? Did your friends or siblings also participate in the rule-breaking behavior?
9. How do you think your gender impacted the way you behaved and were treated as a child?
10. How do you think your race or ethnicity impacted the way you behaved and were treated as a child?
11. How do you think your economic background impacted the way you behaved and were treated as a child?