

Developmental Psychology - Application Paper #2

Piaget – A Cognitive Developmental Biography

(Section 1 – Application Paper) Analyze a person's cognitive development, from birth to full cognitive maturity, from Piaget's view. This person can be yourself, someone else, or someone imaginary. Address at least 10 concepts associated with Piaget's theory. Include an example of each concept within your narrative. Please highlight these 10 concepts in **Bold**. Write this section in the form a biography (example given below.)

Reference Page: This first part of your paper should not require references.

Format: APA formatting must be used on the cover page, body of paper and reference page. You do not need to provide an abstract. Please use Times New Roman 12 pt font and 1" margins. See Blackboard for a sample paper written in APA format.

Copying text directly from the internet, or the book, without appropriate sourcing is plagiarism and will result in a grade of zero and possible expulsion from the course. It is also possible to plagiarize even if you change some words or sentence structure, or even if you include a reference page. It is the student's responsibility to know what constitutes plagiarism. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask me!

Length: I think it would be very hard to write a solid paper in less than 3 pages. Most A papers will be significantly more robust than that.

I expect college level writing. If you have concerns about your abilities in this area, I highly suggest making an appointment at the Writing Center, Building 4, Room 120.

Turn in the final version of your paper to the "Paper 2 Final" link in the Papers 1 & 2 folder in Blackboard by the usual 11:30 PM deadline on 6/15 for my MW class, 7/24 for my TR class, and 7-25 for my online class. Late papers will not be accepted.

Example of the style I'd like for the first section:

Calvin Broadus was born October 20, 1971 to Beverly Tate and Vernell Varnado in Long Beach, California. His parents described him as a happy, outgoing infant who responded with glee when his father would sing Al Green's "[Love and Happiness](#)" to him. Calvin's first example of a **secondary circular reaction** occurred at just three months of age, when he accidentally banged a wooden block (G, if you must know) against an empty tea kettle, resulting in a satisfying bass tone. Over the next several days Calvin practiced this again and again, perfecting this new skill, perhaps setting the table for greatness to come...

Note how I **bold** the actual Piagetian concept, and then give an example of Calvin performing it.

(Section 2 – Critical Thinking and Scientific Understanding)

You will need to search for and read 3 articles/books, all centered around Piaget's most famous concept: object permanence.

1 - Jean Piaget's 1954 book *The construction of reality in the child*

This is available via google books. It doesn't provide access to the whole book, but enough for our purposes. You should read pages 44-47, at least. It might be helpful to start from page 30, instead. Or, you might read all that is available if you like. Note: Piaget refers many times to the exact ages of his children. 0;9 (4) means that the child was 9 months, 4 days old. 0;6 (19) means 6 months, 19 days old, etc. On page 44 he refers to the 4th stage: What he means here are the substages of the overall Sensorimotor stage - see the chart in Ch 5 in your text for a refresher.

2 - Baillargeon's 1987 study - Object permanence in 3½- and 4½-month-old infants.

You can find this in the PsycArticles database through the Valencia online library. Note: there are 3 experiments described in this study. Reading and understanding just the first one should be sufficient for this paper.

3 - Lourenco's 1996 study - In defense of Piaget's theory: A reply to 10 common criticisms

You can find this in the PsycArticles database through the Valencia online library. This is a high level study, it is not the easiest to read and digest. Reading and understanding the introduction and Part 1 of the 10 should be sufficient for this paper.

Also, for some additional context, please see the "A few words about the Scientific Method" .pdf that I put in the Papers 1 and 2 folder.

Reference Page: You will need to include these 3 references (and likely only these 3 references) in appropriate APA format on your reference page.

In Part 2 of your paper, you will need to thoroughly answer 3 of the 4 prompts below. Provide a robust, evidence based response with appropriate internal citations if necessary.

- Who is right?
- What would be your scientific critique of this research be? (Of reading 1, 2, or 3.)
- What is the next line of research that should be done to advance our understanding in this area?
- If Piaget were alive today, and had access to modern technology and modern research methods, how do you think this would have affected his views and methods?

Please copy and paste the 3 prompts into your paper, that way it will be very clear which of your arguments are connected to which prompt.

Rubric for Application Paper #2 Name _____

	Exemplary	Good	Competent	Developing	Incomplete/Missing	
Spelling, grammar, punctuation APA format,length (worth 40 pts)	40 39 38 37 36pts	35 34 33 32 31 30pts	29 27 25 23 21 pts	20 18 16 14 12 10pts	9-0 pts	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spelling ○ Grammar ○ Punctuation ○ Format ○ Length 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spelling ○ Grammar ○ Punctuation ○ Format ○ Length 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spelling ○ Grammar ○ Punctuation ○ Format ○ Length 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spelling ○ Grammar ○ Punctuation ○ Format ○ Length 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spelling ○ Grammar ○ Punctuation ○ Format ○ Length 	/30
Section #1 (worth 30 pts)	30 29 28 27 pts	26 25 24 23 22pts	21 - 15 pts	14 - 8 pts	7 - 0 pts	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Excellent clarity, detail, accuracy and appropriateness ○ Addresses and explains 10 of Piaget's concepts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Minor problems in clarity, detail, accuracy and appropriateness ○ Addresses and explains 8-9 of Piaget's concepts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Major problems in clarity, detail, accuracy and appropriateness ○ Addresses and explains 6-7 of Piaget's concepts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Serious problems in clarity, detail, accuracy and appropriateness ○ Addresses and explains 4-5 of Piaget's concepts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Incomplete or missing 	/30
Section #2 (worth 30 pts)	30 29 28 27 26 pts	25 24 23 22 21 pts	20 18 16 14 pts	13 - 7 pts	6 - 0 pts	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Excellent clarity, detail, accuracy and appropriateness of concepts or arguments ○ Includes 3 valid criticisms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Minor problems in clarity, detail, accuracy and appropriateness of concepts or arguments ○ Includes 2 valid criticisms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Major problems in clarity, detail, accuracy and appropriateness of concepts or arguments ○ Includes 2 valid criticisms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Serious problems in clarity, detail, accuracy and appropriateness of concepts or arguments ○ Includes 1 valid criticism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Incomplete or missing 	/30
				Total Score:	/100	

A Few Thoughts on the 2nd Paper:

Even though there are two parts to this paper, you only need one title page (at the beginning) and one reference page (at the end).

Section 1:

- This paper focuses on Piaget. This means that using concepts from Vygotsky's work, or language development won't be eligible as concepts in the first part of the paper.
- For the first section, worth 30 points, I give one point for **bolding** a milestone or concept of Piaget's, and a two points for explaining what that concept is within the writing. I don't want a definition, necessarily, I want your example to show me that you understand the concept. So if you write your paper, and include 10 concepts, but don't effectively give examples of any of them, you'll only receive 10 points.
- Basically, (but perhaps not 100%), any bolded or italicized term in the 4 Piaget sections would count as an example of a Piagetian concept.
- It's better to focus on the concepts, rather than the broad stages themselves. How can you give an example of the entire preoperational stage? Any example that you give, would very likely be a better example of a more specific concept within that stage. It's easy, though, to give an example of animistic thinking or the personal fable. Basically, any of the bolded or italicized terms in the Piaget sections would be eligible examples.
- If you use the concept of animistic thinking (believing that inanimate objects have life-like properties), call it "animistic thinking" rather than what the book calls it, which is "animism". Animism also means the belief that "natural objects, natural phenomena, and the universe itself possess souls." This may or may not be true, but it certainly isn't the same thing that Piaget meant. Using the term "animistic thinking" avoids this confusion.
- You can use "conservation" or "lack of conservation" as a concept, but not both.
- Be sure you get your person to adolescence and include at least one concept from each of Piaget's four stages. If you choose to write about a person who is currently only 7, you'll have to make some stuff up!
- Be sure you focus on the Piagetian concepts. Discussing physical dev., or language dev., or the identity statuses is not the focus of this paper, and won't count.
- As far as format, I gave an example of the biography style format I'd like to see for the writing in the first section.

Section 2:

- I would suggest reading everything that the textbook has to offer on Piaget before you begin. This is a fairly complex assignment – the more information you understand about Piaget’s theory and about the scientific process in general, the more context you will have for this assignment.
- In the same way, the more understanding of habituation and recovery you have, the more context you will have for the 2nd reading. I suggest looking those up in the text.
- Please copy and paste the 3 prompts into your paper, with your answer below it.
- The first two prompts most definitely require references and internal citation. Prompts 3 and 4 are more speculative, so they *might* not. Still, I am looking for rational, well thought out, evidence based arguments as much as possible.
- The point of this section is to show me that you have read and understood 3 pieces of academic writing, and that you can apply your critical thinking skills and your scientific understanding as you construct an evidence based argument. So the more clear, the more robust, and the better supported your answers, the better your grade!
- This assignment is going to take some time to digest and understand and read and complete. Please do not leave this for the last minute!