Bridging the Generation Gap: Interviewing a Senior Citizen About Adolescence

Guidelines:

1. Arrange to conduct an informal interview (more like a conversation, really) with someone who is at least 65 years old. You may interview a relative, neighbor, member of your church. You may also call a nursing home or assisted living home to arrange to interview a resident. If you are having trouble finding someone to interview, ask me.

2. Schedule at least 30 minutes to conduct the interview. You may tape the interview but this is not necessary, especially if it makes your interviewee nervous. Do jot a few notes as you proceed. Have AT LEAST five questions prepared to get the conversation going, but be flexible and allow the conversation to follow its own course.

3. The interview should be about adolescence as it was experienced by your interview subject. You may ask about school, friendship and dating activities, family, part-time jobs, and historical events (Vietnam, the 50’s, the 60’s, Kennedy, Korean War etc.). You may also ask about your subject’s opinions of today’s teenagers and share your opinions as the conversation develops. The communication should be a two-way street.

4. Prepare a report about your interview. Rather than trying to summarize the whole conversation, restrict your paper to two to four topics that you found especially interesting or informative. You may highlight differences or similarities between adolescents today and in your subject’s time, or you may choose to focus solely on their experiences as an adolescent 50+ years ago. Make sure you conclude with your own well-reasoned opinions about each of the topics you highlight.

5. Be sure to apply your reading and understanding of the text and class discussions to your interview and incorporate it into your analysis. Paper should be around 2-3 pages, typed.

6. This project has a STRICT DUE DATE!!!! It is due TUESDAY, Dec. 4. I WILL NOT accept it late!!!!! This is a 30 point summative grade!!

6 points per category

_____ Paper is typed and well-organized
_____ Reflects understanding Adolescent Development
_____ Includes specific multiple references to interviewee’s life
_____ Incorporates some references to Stages of Development (Erikson, Kohlberg, or Piaget)
_____ Conventions (make sure your proofread!!)