AP Psychology - Mr. Stombaugh

General Overview: You will be working on this project as we cover the Developmental Psychology unit in class. This topic involves how humans change and develop during the course of the life cycle. For this project, you will interview four individuals from adolescence to old age. You will be asking them questions that pertain to their age and place in the life cycle and will then be analyzing the feedback that you receive from each individual.

Organizing Your Project: To have a successful outcome for this project, it will be important to have interesting subjects for your interviews. Try to select folks for this who are "engaging" individuals who are easy to talk to and who will provide good feedback.

You will be interviewing four individuals from the following age categories:
- A teenager
- A young adult (age 25-40)
- A middle-aged adult (age 40-65)
- An elderly adult (age 65 and older)

* I will allow you to do one interview with a family member but at least three should be with folks outside of your own family. This is to insure some diversity in the folks that you choose for this project and get a variety of perspectives.

The Interviews:

For each interview, you should ask a minimum of twelve questions. The theme of these should be related to Erik Erikson's theory of psychosocial development and the focus that people have in various life stages. An outline of Erikson's theory is on page 166 in your textbook.

An example of how to frame your questions:

Erikson describes Middle Age Adulthood as "Generativity vs. Stagnation."

Specifically, he is describing this point in the life cycle as a period when adults either feel that they are productive and contributing to society or that they are not accomplishing as much as they should be.

For the interview that you do with your middle aged adult, your questions should revolve around Erikson's theme for that individual.

Examples of some questions that you could ask:

"What is an accomplishment that you are particularly proud of?"
"Do you feel that you are making vital contributions to society?"
"How important is your family to you?"
Some More Ideas For Your Questions....

As noted above, you should ask at least twelve questions for each subject. You should have your questions written out before you talk to each individual in person. Feel free, however, to "ad lib" with some questions that come to mind during the interview if you are getting feedback that makes this possible. You may want to start with "ice breaker" questions that will make your subjects comfortable. Some examples would be:

- "What is your best childhood memory?" (and why?)
- "What has been the most significant invention in your lifetime?" (and why?)

As the interview progresses, plan to have questions that center on the Erikson theme for each individual as noted above.

** It is important to have "and why" type of questions so that your subjects elaborate and do not give simply "yes and no" responses.

Be sure that your questions are appropriate and not too personal. I have just a few "required" questions that I would like for you to ask:

For all four individuals:
- "What has been your best accomplishment?" (and why)
- "What is a goal that would like to accomplish in the next five years?" (and why)
- "What is a piece of advice that you would offer to someone younger than you?"

For the middle-age and elderly adults:
- "How is life most similar being a teen in your day as compared with life for teens today?"
- "How is life different being a teen in your day as compared with life for teens today?"
- "Would you want to trade places with today's teenagers and live in the world they have grown up in (technology, etc) rather than the way that you grew up?"

**Format:** For the interviews, develop a format to distinguish the questions from the responses. (boldface for questions, plain font for the responses, for example)

After each interview, do an "analysis" of how each individual does or does not fit the description that Erikson assigned to their place in the life cycle.

**Grading:** (The grading breakdown will be as follows)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quality of Interviews and analysis</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation (Organization, neatness, etc)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application of psychology concepts</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Due Date:** This project is due on **Tuesday, October 18.** There will be a ten point per day penalty for each day that is late, so please begin planning this soon by deciding on who you will be interviewing. Set up your interviews within the next week so that you will have time to write your final draft and submit this on time.