Developmental Psychology Critical Thinking Questions
Answer in your OWN WORDS.

1. You’ve been asked to research the effects that playing excessive video games has on grade point average. Which would you use: a **cross-sectional study** or a **longitudinal study**? Why?

2. Think about the following three topics – your **education**, your **drug behaviors** (or lack thereof), and your **ways of interacting with authority figures**. For each of these three topics, were they more **influenced by your parents or by your peers**? Does this match up with the research you learned in class? If not, why do you think there are differences?

3. What is your reaction to **social learning theory**? Do you think the **theory has merit** (the idea that we are “taught” what it means to be a girl or to be a boy)? Explain your answer.

4. According to **Erik Erikson’s Theory of Psychosocial Development**, which stage/conflict are you currently in right now? How do you think you are **“dealing” with this conflict**?
5. **The Emma Watson Question:** Emma is already planning her future with Mr. Oksiuta, which involves having a child. She’s curious about baby reflexes and strikes up a conversation with you. Which of the various reflexes we discussed in class do you find the most interesting? Why do you think babies come “equipped” with that particular reflex (how does it aid their survival)?

6. Imagine you have a two-year-old little brother. Which stage of Piaget’s Cognitive Development would they be in? What characteristics or developments are associated with this stage?

7. Imagine that your schema for a dog is a “four legged creature with a tail.” Give examples of events that would make you assimilate or accommodate your schema. (one for each)

8. What type of parenting style (authoritarian-permissive-authoritative) do you believe your parent / guardian has used on you? Give examples.