The object of this assignment is to piece together all the gory details of your adolescence and reflect upon the most distinct parts of your pre-teen/teen history as an adult who is going to become a middle school teacher. This is a chance to synthesize personal information about your childhood with what you're learning about adolescent development in your education and psychology courses at Mount Union College. The outcome will be an analysis of what particular strengths, and perhaps weaknesses, you will bring to teaching in the middle school.

The paper (It may go beyond the written word, collages, poems, artifacts, videos, etc., can also be included.) should be a compendium of the highlights your adolescence discussed through the use of professional terminology important to educators. Significant items to be included and elaborated upon are:

**Identity/Connectedness/Power**

**Contradictory Needs of Young Adolescents**
- To be needed/To need
- For myth and legend/For fact
- To move inward/To affect the outer world
  - For intensity/For routine
  - For Physical activity/For Stillness
  - For Separateness/For Belonging

**Cognitive Development and its Themes during Adolescence**
- From concrete to abstract thinking
- From an egocentric to a socio-centric perspective
- From a limited to a broad perspective of time and space
- From a simplistic to a complex view of human motivation
- From reliance on slogans toward the construction of a personal ideology
- From a lower-order to a complex, higher-order conceptualization

**Physical Development/Psycho-motor Domain**

**Social Development**

**Emotional Development/Affective Domain**

**The Influence of Media**

**Elkind's Theories from** *All Grown Up and Nowhere to Go*
- Peer Shock
- Vanishing Markers
- Postmodern Stressors
- Patchwork Self

Please don't allow your autobiography to be limited to these categories; on the other hand, don't neglect them. It is important that you utilize the journal writing activities and reflect upon the discussions we've had in class for your autobiography. Dr. S. and Professor Walker would like to see that you understand how these key considerations for working with adolescents apply to your adolescence and will be applied by you during your teaching.

Here are some ideas for organization:

**Chronological -**

**Pre-teen years - 10-12**
- Family - Identity
Another way to organize could be:

**Thematic –**

**Introduction** – A Defining Moment My Entry to Middle School

**Chapter One** – Postmodern Perspectives – Divorce, My Friends, and My “First” Love

**Chapter Two** – “Oh My God!” – The Shock of Peer Involvement and the Media: Seventh Grade with the Backstreet Boys

**Chapter Three** – Experimentation with Adulthood and my Patchwork Identity: Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco

**Chapter Four** – Stressors and my Contradictory Needs

**Chapter Five** – The Integrated Teenager – Pulling it all Together on the way to HIGH SCHOOL

**Conclusion** – My Youth and How I’ll use it as a Middle School Teacher

You may organize the paper in any way that seems to be in accord with the adult reflections of your pre-adolescent and adolescent experiences. Certainly there are numerous other ways to organize your adolescent autobiography, even ways to combine thematic and chronological structures. You may elect to write your autobiography in a narrative format; however, for your paper to be considered for a B- or above, you must use APA Style for citing sources. For information on APA Style go to

http://www.cas.usf.edu/english/walker/apa.html
http://www.ldl.net/~bill/aparev.htm
http://www.lehigh.edu/~inhelp/footnote/apa.html
http://webster.commnet.edu/apa/apa_index.htm
http://www.english.uiuc.edu/cws/wworkshop/apamenu.htm
http://www.wilpaterson.edu/wpcpages/library/apa.htm
http://www.ldl.net/~bill/conduct.htm
http://humanities.byu.edu/linguistics/Henrichsen/APA/APA01.html

**Note of Caution** regarding websites and APA Style - Margins and line breaks on examples have been forced to simulate hanging indents in print, while trying to preserve margins for various sized browser windows.

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