**CHC UEPS 240 Human Development**

**Rubric for Focus Papers**: Please use APA Format for this short paper (1-2 pages, double-spaced, 12 font). See Logue Library page online for assistance with this format, especially in your citations.

1. **2 points *Introduction &* *Background****.* Raise the key question and begin with your thesis statement. Note the main idea, age group, level of development, or theory on which you hope to focus and why you have chosen this for your paper. Present the necessary theoretical contexts for the paper. Name the main theorists whose work influences the study of the focus chosen. You will find these scholars within not only your text, but within the wealth of course materials through the semester (Power Point slides, video links). Include within this Background a hypothesis of how the focus materials may affect your personal understanding, further studies, ministry, etc.

1. ***2 points Style****.* Style here refers to writing patterns that enliven prose and engage the reader. Three simple ways to strengthen your academic prose are:

* + Topic sentences. Be sure each paragraph clearly states its main assertion.
	+ Active verbs. As much as possible, avoid using the linking verb, to be. Rephrase using active verbs.
	+ Sentence flow. Above all, look for awkward sentences in your draft. Disentangle and rework them into smooth, clear sequences. To avoid boring the reader, vary the length and form of your sentences. Check to see if your paragraphs unfold with some short sentences, questions, and simple declarative ones.

Likewise, tackle some barbarisms that frequently invade academic prose:

* + *Repetition.* Unless you need the word count, this can go.
	+ *Unnecessary words.* Need we say more? Such filler as "The fact that,"... "And in order to," ... and "There is/are" numb your reader. Similarly, such qualifiers as somewhat, fairly, rather, very take the wind from the adjective that follows.
	+ *Jargon.* Avoid technical terms when possible. Explain all technical terms that you do use. Avoid or translate foreign-language terms.
	+ *Overly complex sentences.* Short sentences are best. Avoid compound-complex sentences and run-on sentences. Avoid *etc.*
	+ *Spelling, Grammar, Punctuation.* Along with typographical errors, look for stealth errors, the common but overlooked grammatical gaffes: subject-verb disagreement, dangling participles, mixed verb tenses, over- and under-use of commas, semicolon use, and inconsistency in capitalization, hyphenation, italicization, or treatment of numbers.

Miriam-Webster Online contains both the Collegiate Dictionary and Thesaurus: <http://www.merriam-webster.com/>

1. **5 points *Development****.* Present your own insight in a clear and logical way. Provide evidence to support your thesis and develop it further by:

* + offering examples from your primary sources
	+ citing or discussing scholarly voices to support your argument
	+ contrasting your thesis with other treatments, scholarly voices, theories
	+ confirming it by showing how it makes good sense of the data or answers related questions or solves previous puzzles
	+ integrating class notes, discussion material, and/or examples of connections to your topics from class content (also to be cited via APA format)
1. **1 point *Conclusion****.* Restate the thesis in a way that repeats your focus and its consequences for the field or your contemporary understanding of the psychological relevance of this stage in lifespan development.
2. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Total Points for Paper (**N.B. Total Points correspond to value assigned per Focus Paper, see syllabus)