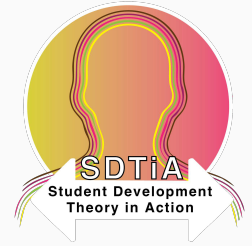


Research a Developmental Issue



Assignment Rationale

Our SDTiA framework recognizes that the developmental needs of college students vary across sociopolitical and institutional contexts. This learning activity encourages students to deepen their understanding of the developmental issues that matter to them while also illustrating how theory itself is developed through the study of developmental processes and outcomes. In doing so, the Researching a Developmental Issue assignment supports students in stretching their informal, experience-based interpretations into more formal, theory-informed analyses.

Assignment Overview

The Research a Developmental Issue assignment asks students to examine a developmental issue affecting college students and to analyze how student development theory is used to study and understand that issue. Grounded in the SDTiA framework, the assignment highlights how developmental needs are shaped by sociopolitical and institutional contexts and how theory emerges--and evolves--through the study of developmental processes and outcomes.

Assignment Requirements

This assignment works well for students to complete independently or as a group project. To complete this assignment, students must:

1. Prepare an annotated bibliography with a minimum of **25 citations** (peer-reviewed articles, periodicals, books, and/or documentaries), all published within the last 10 years. It is recommended that students begin the research process using a broad lens to identify a developmental issue (e.g., developing emotional maturity or developing financial literacy or spiritual development). After which, students may want to denote a particular institutional context or specific population to focus their literature search and refine their understanding of their developmental issue.
2. Generate a **single-page** description of the chosen developmental issue. This one-page overview should:
 - a. Describe the population(s) most affected by the developmental issue;
 - b. Discuss how student development theory (SDT) has been used to study this issue; and
 - c. Offer preliminary observations about how this developmental issue has been framed—or neglected—across the components of the SDTiA framework (e.g., the use of informal versus formal theory, the extent to which theory-to-practice translation is evident, and the degree to which sociopolitical and institutional contexts are explicitly considered in studying this developmental issue).