To-Do List

Complete Readings

This week you will learn about developmental research methods and approaches to single subject research.

Read Chapter 11, pages 338-343 in your text, to learn about the different developmental research methods, and how scientists go about studying changes that are due to age.

In Chapter 12, you will learn about the different approaches to single subject research. Specifically, baseline, dynamic, and discrete trials designs will be explored in more depth.

Participate in Both Discussion Threads

Discussion Thread 1 of 2:
Think of a research topic in developmental psychology that deals with aging or changes over time. Briefly describe the different developmental designs, and select one that you would use to explore this topic. Provide a short rationale as to why you would use the approach that you selected and how you believe this method is superior to the other two. Describe some of the pragmatic issues that researchers face when using the developmental designs and how these issues can threaten the validity of your results. Finally, take some time to discuss the problem of generational cohorts and whether or not you feel this would be an issue in your hypothetical study.

Discussion Thread 2 of 2:
How are the single subject methods unique to experimental research? Think of a problem behavior that you might want to improve upon in one of your future clients, and devise a single subject design to study the effectiveness of your new intervention. Which single subject approach would you use here (baseline, discrete trials, dynamic), and why?
Attend Seminar

Come to the seminar prepared to discuss the following:

- Briefly describe some of the ethical issues that are unique to single subject research designs and how you would protect the rights of your subject in this type of research. How would you deal with a multiple baseline design where the intervention you are using is effective in reducing a dangerous self-injurious behavior? Would you return to baseline after treatment? Why or why not? Finally, what are some of the drawbacks to the use of the different single subject research designs.