

Activity: Understanding a Research Article in the Context of Theory

Respond to the questions and prompts within this document using a legible but different color font.

Respond to the questions below using Javdini & Allen (2016). It could be helpful to read the article fully and then begin responding to the questions—referring back afterward. Keep in mind that you are not expected to understand or use information from the results section, but you will want to read the discussion.

Please cite your responses with page numbers/section headings (e.g., Measures) to indicate where you found information to support your answers.

- 1) **Is this study an example of applied research or basic research? How do you know and what evidence do you have to support your claim?**
- 2) **Does this study use a correlational or experimental design? How do you know?**
Explain a major limitation of the design used in this study. *Hint: the authors do explicitly discuss this limitation somewhere in the study. However, you should also be able to identify the limitation/criticism simply by correctly identifying the design.*
- 3) **Does this study use a developmental design? If so, which developmental design and what evidence do you have to support which design was used?**
 - a. Explain any evidence of how one of the major disadvantages/weaknesses of this developmental design (as discussed in your book/class) was evident in this study. For example, what is the disadvantage you identified and what do the authors say about it?
- 4) **Describe any aims, research questions, or hypotheses of the study. What were the researchers trying to assess?** Indicate any strategies you used to identify these elements.
- 5) **Who is the sample? Based on this sample, to whom can these findings be generalized?**

Bonus: Correctly identify the population.

- 6) **What stage(s) of development are represented in this study?**

- 7) **How did the researchers ensure the ethical treatment of children as research participants? Describe and provide evidence of what procedures they used.**
 - a. Based on your textbook and our class discussions, do you feel their steps were adequate (if applicable)? What, if anything, do you think they should have added?

- 8) **What types of measures were used in this study (e.g., interviews, standardized assessments, self-reports, physiological measures, etc.)? You should list all types of measures and approaches used in the study.**
 - a. Describe how you identified these measures and any overall strengths or weaknesses of the types of methods they used. *Hint: It is possible for a measure to fall under more than one category. See the Active Learning on activity page 83 of your book for an example of this and practice identifying measure types.*

- 9) **Describe three variables the researchers studied and how they were operationalized.**
 - a. **Bonus:** Tell me if each one is an independent or a dependent variable (e.g., predictor or outcome).

- 10) **Name at least one domain of development the researchers assessed and how you identified this domain.**

- 11) **In what way do the authors mention the four contexts of development we learned about in class (unit 1)? *Hint: These are explicitly discussed in the paper at least once—though the exact terminology may be different for one of the contexts (e.g., they use a synonym).***
 - a. Tell me where each of these contexts fit within the theory that they use to guide their paper (see next question for clarification). For example, what system?

- 12) **What theory that we discussed in class do the researchers describe as a framework for their study? Who developed that theory?**
 - a. In what way(s) do you find their description and use of this theory helpful in setting up their study?

- 13) **Name an individual characteristic/trait that was measured in this study.**

- 14) **Briefly describe the meaning of ecological validity in your own words and tell me who coined the term.**

a. In what way does this study address ecological validity?

15) Based on our class discussion, what other theory that we learned about (aside from the one you should have listed above) might apply to this study or be useful in thinking about the study? Briefly explain your response. *Hint: There is not necessarily a right answer, but you might want to consider how they use the terms resilience and/or pathway. They also mention the terms proximal and distal somewhere in the paper.*

Bonus: Fully describe an additional theory and how it would apply.

16) In what ways do the authors discuss issues of validity and/or reliability (not including ecological validity)?

17) The direct interactions between advocates who administered the intervention and the participants receiving the intervention (see page 143/145) would be an example of what system of the bioecological model? *Here, we are considering the participant to be at the center of the model. Justify your answer.*

18) In what journal is this article published? *(Hint: you can find the journal title in the article itself)*

- a. What is the journal's most recent impact factor?
- b. What is this journal's ranking?
- c. Who is the primary editor?
- d. Is this journal peer reviewed? How do you know?

19) Based on the information you gathered above, what is your overall opinion on this journal as a scholarly source? *You may want to consider whether you think this journal has highly specified content and how that could affect metrics listed above.*

20) What did you take away or learn from this activity?