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Erikson Essay Questions

2. Choose 2 of the Psychosocial stages of personality development and elaborate on them.

The first stage of the psychosocial stages of personality development is oral sensory. This goes from birth to the age of one. The ego crisis is basic trust vs mistrust and the ego strength is hope. The infant loves through its mouth and has sensation from feeding through the mouth. The baby can have a loving relationship with their mother which contributes to the basic trust vs mistrust. The second stage of psychosocial development is muscular- anal. This happens between the ages two and three. The child's ego strength is will and their ego crisis is autonomy vs shame and doubt. The child begins to learn control over their muscles as they mature. As the child is learning to use the restroom it can cause some conflict. In our society that stresses cleanliness and punctuality, according to Erikson, the child can have intense conflict. During this stage children can have a power struggle with their parents because they want their will to be done. They learn to be independent and trust others.

3. Choose 2 more of the Psychosocial stages of personality development and elaborate on them.

The third stage of psychosocial stages of personality development is Locomotor- genital. The child is usually four to five years old. Their ego crisis is initiative vs guilt and their ego strength is purpose. At this stage the child has their own initiative and their personality is starting

to form. They become curious and want to have relationships outside of their family. They also are interested in acting out adult roles. For example, being a doctor, lawyer, or a parent. When punished heavily for their actions, children may feel guilt. If supported and understood the child may develop a sense of purpose. The fourth stage of personality development is latency. The child at this stage can be six to twelve years old. Their ego strength is competence and their ego crisis is industry vs inferiority. At this stage students are engaged into their learning, school, and their teachers. If they like it they're making new things and developing a sense of industry. On the other hand if the child isn't a fan of school and doesn't produce new things then there's a sense of inferiority. This is shown when they want their mothers instead of knowledge or unrealistically compare themselves to people.

4. Outline the basic weaknesses of Erikson's theory

His theory is not precise and testable. It doesn't have clear concepts and not enough references. The identity concept that Erikson expressed was vague. The hypothesis is also vague, the concept was just very complex and too complicated to test. His theory is also parsimonious. The explanatory base is in a post hoc fashion and is limited. Erikson's theory is also too closely related to Freud's so researchers haven't tested it out. There isn't enough research about the first four stages due to its lack of testability.