PSY 150
FINAL GROUP DEVELOPMENT REPORT AND PRESENTATION

In the final report and presentation of the group development projects, you will synthesize the findings from the two studies (i.e., moral judgment, natural phenomenon) in order to comment generally on the characteristics of children's thinking at a particular stage of development. In doing so you will answer provisionally our original research question: Do children of the same age think similarly? After hearing the presentations from each of the four groups, as a class we will discuss the related question, Do children of different ages think differently?

Recall that we assumed at the beginning of our study on child development that we would operationalize children's thinking as the performance of the study's subjects on the two tasks indicated above. Now based on your subjects' performance on these tasks, what can you conclude about children's thinking at this stage?

To prepare your final report, which you will submit to me for a group grade, first revise each of the two draft reports based on my comments. Then as a group review the findings of the two studies and answer these questions ALWAYS BACKING UP YOUR STATEMENTS WITH RESEARCH EVIDENCE in a final discussion section:

1. Based on the two studies, describe the quality of children's thinking at your subjects' Piagetian stage, if there is such a characteristic quality. Are the subjects in your study at the same stage of development on both tasks? Did all subjects in your study perform equally well on each task? Is some subjects' performance more advanced on some tasks and less advanced on others? Examine this question thoroughly and comment fully on your answers.

2. Based on your text and any other sources you may wish to consult, are your findings consistent with those of Piaget's? How would you account for any differences?

3. Were certain parts of this study more difficult to do than others? More or less reliable? Or valid? (Remember the characteristics of a good "test.") Comment.

4. Comment on any deficiencies in the study. For example, how generalizable are the results of your study to all children of the same Piagetian stage? Do the two tasks represent fairly children's thinking? What factors other than your subjects' age could have contributed to their performance on the three tasks? Please consider other possible deficiencies as well.

5. How would you follow up on your study?

The final discussion section should be approximately 5 pages, double-spaced, typed.

Your final report should include these elements:

1. general introduction to the two studies in which you provide a context for the study (i.e., the work of Piaget,Kohlberg), introduce the main research question, its importance, and your hypothesis.

2. your final revisions of the two draft studies

3. the final discussion section as described above.

It is due class time, May 3 when you will also make your presentation to the class.

(see back for Presentation Guidelines)

PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

Each group will present its findings to the class on May 3. Please make every effort to make an organized and coherent presentation. The presentation should include the following:

a. a brief description of the subjects of your study

b. a brief summary of the results of each of the two studies

c. a summary of your final discussion section.

You may wish to supplement your presentation with handouts, overheads, and the like. Each person in your group should have a role in the oral presentation.

Your presentation should last approximately 15 minutes, and you should be ready to entertain questions.