

Identity Creation: Adolescent Development and Social Networking

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What is important to teenagers?



Stages Of Development

Erik Erickson (Childhood & Society)

Learning Identity vs. Role Confusion (13-20 Years)

What is my goal in life? Who am I?

Central Task: Peer group, cliques

Positive Outcome: A strong group identity, ready to plan for the future, Teens needs to develop a sense of self and personal identity. Success leads to an ability to stay true to yourself, while failure leads to role confusion and a weak sense of self.

Development is now what we do rather than what is done to us.

Early Adulthood (18-34 years) Learning Intimacy vs. Isolation

Form close relationships and share with others

Young adults need to form intimate, loving relationships with other people. Success leads to strong relationships, while failure results in loneliness and isolation.

Erik Erickson (The Psychology of the Child)

Formal Operations (11-15 years)

Children develop the ability to reason abstractly.

Thought becomes more abstract, incorporating the principles of formal logic. The ability to generate abstract propositions, multiple hypotheses and their possible outcomes is evident. Thinking becomes less tied to concrete reality. For example, they can deal with the statement "what would happen if snow were black".

What do social networking sites give adolescents?



