

The Human Life Course Scrapbook Project



Course Context

AP Psychology / Psychology
Developmental Psychology Unit



Project Overview

In this project, students will create a **life-span scrapbook** following one individual from **before birth through death**. The individual may be fictional or partially autobiographical, but must be treated as a *psychological case study* across the stages of development.

Each stage of life will include:

- **One artifact** (image, document, symbolic object)
- **One journal entry** describing a key milestone
- **Explicit connection to developmental psychology concepts**

The scrapbook will intentionally **shift perspective over time**:

1. Early stages → **Parent perspective**
2. Middle stages → **Individual's perspective**
3. Final stage → **Loved ones' perspective**



Required Life Stages & Pages

1. Pre-Natal
2. Infancy
3. Toddlerhood
4. Preschool Years
5. Early School Years
6. Adolescence
7. Young Adulthood
8. Middle Adulthood
9. Late Adulthood
10. Death

Structural Requirements

Opening Page (Required)

Letter to the Child (Parent Perspective)

- Written from the mother *or* father
- Reflects emotions, hopes, fears, and expectations
- Should reference pregnancy, anticipation, and environment

Final Page (Required)

Obituary

- Written from the perspective of loved ones
- Summarizes the individual's life, relationships, and legacy
- Should reflect continuity across earlier stages

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Apply developmental psychology theories across the lifespan
- Analyze continuity and change in human development
- Demonstrate understanding of biological, cognitive, and social development
- Practice perspective-taking and reflective writing
- Synthesize multiple stages into a coherent life narrative

Teacher Instructions

Before Starting

1. Introduce the project **at the beginning of the development unit**
2. Explain that pages will be completed **as each stage is taught**
3. Emphasize:
 - Fictional is allowed (and encouraged if preferred)
 - Psychological accuracy matters more than creativity alone

While Teaching the Unit

- Assign stages incrementally
- Encourage students to revise earlier pages as understanding grows
- Use sample artifacts (photos, drawings, symbols) to model expectations

Technology Guidance

- A **digital scrapbook is preferred but not required**
- Physical scrapbooks are acceptable
- The **ScholarForge Scrapbook tool** was specifically designed for projects like this:
 - Page-based
 - Supports images + text
 - Free for teachers and students
 - Allows teacher review or self-managed portfolios

Teachers and students are encouraged (but not required) to use the free ScholarForge Scrapbook tool for this project.



Student Instructions (Handout Version)

Your Task

You will create a scrapbook that follows one person through their entire life. This person may be fictional or partially autobiographical.

For **each life stage**, you must include:

1. **An artifact**
 - Photo, drawing, document, or symbolic image
2. **A journal entry**
 - 1–2 well-developed paragraphs
 - Describes a milestone or challenge
 - Clearly connects to what we are learning in psychology

Perspective Shift (Important)

- Early pages → **Parent voice**
- Middle pages → **Your character's voice**
- Final page → **Loved ones' voice**

This is intentional and will be graded.

Psychological Content Expectations

Your writing should reference:

- Developmental milestones
- Cognitive or emotional changes
- Social relationships
- Environmental influences

You do **not** need to name theorists on every page, but your writing should reflect accurate psychological understanding.



Example Rubric (100 Points)

1. Completion & Structure (20 pts)

- All required life stages included (10)
- Opening letter and obituary included (10)

2. Artifacts (20 pts)

- One meaningful artifact per stage (10)
- Artifact clearly relates to the stage and journal entry (10)

3. Journal Entries & Writing Quality (20 pts)

- Clear, thoughtful writing (10)
- Appropriate perspective for each stage (10)

4. Psychological Accuracy & Application (25 pts)

- Accurate representation of development (15)
- Clear connection to course concepts (10)

5. Continuity & Life-Span Integration (15 pts)

- Life events show logical progression
- Final obituary reflects earlier stages

✦ Optional Bonus (Up to +5)

- Exceptional insight
- Strong thematic coherence
- Particularly effective use of digital scrapbook tools