

OPEN SCHOOL BC

Adulthood

Introduction Assignment

This assignment is intended to familiarize you with some of the basic concepts and skills related to *Adulthood*. This is the first meaningful assignment for *Adulthood*, so complete it with care.

Student Name _____

Student No. _____ Date _____

Address _____ Postal Code _____

Complete the following *Adulthood* Assignment independently and return it to your teacher based on the instructions provided by your school. No external resources are required to complete this assignment.

There are two parts to this assignment:

Part A: Critical Reading 10 marks

Part B: Written Response 12 marks

Contents:

10 pages

5 short answer questions

1 written response question

Assignment time:

2 hours

Before you start, read these important tips.

1. Read each question carefully before answering.
2. Answer all questions to the best of your ability.
3. Take your time. Check your work before handing in the test.
4. Write neatly and watch your spelling.

Part A: Critical Reading

Read the article “Learning How to Make Choices in Life” and respond to the questions that follow.

Learning How to Make Choices in Life

There are two primary choices in life: to accept conditions as they exist, or accept the responsibility for changing them.

—Dr. Denis Waitley

At the time, we didn’t know we were doing anything important. We just thought we’d come up with a neat little trick to get us through the hectic mornings. Turns out, we’d stumbled across something very important.

Our daughter had been dressing herself for quite awhile, but with mom going back to work in the Grade 1 year, time became a factor. We were all pressed to get ready and out the door for the start of school. We didn’t have the luxury of time anymore. Decisions about what to wear had to be made quickly, and finally, the first time around. And this neat little trick, offering Emma the choice between only two outfits, laid out on her bed ahead of time, worked like a charm - even if it did mean that the favourite red-velour jogging suit got worn day, after day, after day!

It turns out that we were beginning to teach our daughter an important life skill. We were teaching her how to make choices.

Jason Ladock, writing for healthguidance.org, says that it is not just a good idea, “it is our duty to teach our children to make the right choices in life.” He goes on to suggest that there are a variety of simple choices that should be offered to very young children such as them offering a choice of two different fruits at breakfast time, and, yes, offering them a choice of two different outfits to wear.

It is about learning to take control of his or her life. “All human beings need to feel as if they have control over themselves and their lives...Children who do not develop autonomy are liable to remain dependent on adults or to be influenced by peers,” warns Sue Grossman, Ph.D., in *Early Childhood News*. She advises that self-esteem is tied to children being able to do things for themselves successfully but warns us that self-esteem is not just about feeling good, it’s about making choices and learning to live with the consequences - even when mistakes are made.

The RCMP concurs. It advises parents that, “children need to practice making decisions appropriate to their age level, with an understanding of the consequences.” Their website, *Helping your kids make good decisions*, goes on to recommend that they “need to make choices that are respectful, realistic, and responsible...they need to think about how their actions will affect themselves and others.”

Part of the learning is about experiencing poor decisions. *Parents magazine* reassures us that “it’s important for children to make some bad decisions because it helps them to consider consequences.”

Of course, not every decision your child will have to make is as simple as choosing which outfit to wear. As children grow older, particularly during the teenage years, their decision-making skills need to become more sophisticated. Parents can guide them by helping them examine the pros and cons of the choices they make. They can try to get their children to consider some the factors that can affect their choices – things like peer pressure and the roller coaster emotions of adolescence.

Most importantly, parents need to model good decision-making. They have to try consistently to make rational choices based on careful consideration of the alternatives. They must avoid stepping in to neutralize the effects or consequences of their children’s poor decisions or making excuses for their own.

They also have to teach children that sometimes in life there’s not much choice. We all have to obey the laws, pay our bills, and look after our health and safety. We all have to learn to accept that there are rules and boundaries that limit our options.

Later in life our children will have to make their own important decisions about work and love, responsibility and community, and health and fitness. As Ladock puts it, “The values you inculcate in them and the decision making skills you help them develop will come in handy when they make such major life-changing decisions.”

Works Cited

“Choices in Life | Responsibly Healthy.” *Responsibly Healthy RSS*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Dec. 2014.

“Earlychildhood NEWS - Article Reading Center.” *Earlychildhood NEWS - Article Reading Center*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Dec. 2014.

"Helping Your Kids Make Good Decisions." *Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Government of Canada*, n.d. Web. 10 Dec. 2014.

Ladock, Jason. "Teach Your Child to Make the Right Choices in Life." *HealthGuidance.org*, n.d. Web. 10 Dec. 2014.

"Teach Your Child How to Make Choices." - *FamilyEducation.com*. Familyeducation, n.d. Web. 10 Dec. 2014.

Instructions:

Write your responses in full sentences. In each response, provide an example to support your idea. Your example may come from the article or from your own experience. (10 marks: Idea—1 mark, Example—1 mark)

1. According to Jason Ladock, how important is it that parents teach young children to make choices in life?

2. How can parents introduce the process of making choices to children at a very young age?

3. How does learning to make decisions affect a child's social and emotional development?

4. According to Jason Ladock, in what ways is setting a good example important in teaching children to make decisions?

5. What is the link between teaching children values and teaching them to make decisions?

Part B: Written Response—Writing an Expository Paragraph

In a well-developed paragraph of approximately 125 words, write on the following topic. (12 marks)

What important choices have you made successfully in your life and how did you learn to make those choices?

Organization and Planning

Use this space to plan your ideas before writing the response.
This area will not be marked.

Tips for Writing:

- have a good topic sentence
- explain yourself clearly
- check your work

INTRODUCTION ASSIGNMENT

This image shows a full page of blank handwriting practice paper. It features approximately 20 evenly spaced, thin grey horizontal lines across the entire page, providing a guide for letter height and placement. The background is plain white, and there are no margins, text, or other markings present.

[illegible]

INTRODUCTION ASSIGNMENT

MARKS

/10	Part A: Critical Reading
/12	Part B: Written Response

Total