

Comm 601

## Lifespan Communication Development Paper

This is a semester-long project that builds on your work of short paper #2.

For this paper you are asked to **trace the developmental arc of a communication process, phenomena, or topic** from birth to the end of life [i.e., birth, childhood (early middle, later), adolescence, and adulthood (early, middle and later years) by means of a review of the literature from the field of communication and the literatures of allied field (child development, education, psychology, sociology, and so on). In this MA program we think of “communication” comprehensively to include relational communication **and** digitally-mediated communication. It is important to consider that a skill like “humorous communication” will be affected by relational as well as digital media differently at different points in its development.

The goal of the paper is for the reader to be able to visualize what your particular communication topic looks like during a given life-phase as well as how might this skill or process change and develop from life-stage to life-stage.

For some topics there may be very little literature for a given life stage while other stages may have a lot. Do the best that you can with the literature you locate to describe what your topic looks like at all stages of the human lifespan. You might also think about, for example, when might a skill become fully mature? When might skill halt developing? When might a skill begin to decline?

There is no maximum length for the paper. The paper should follow the APA 6th edition in matters of formatting and referencing.

Past paper topics:

- Anger communication
- Comforting
- Conflict management
- Fear appeals
- Humor
- LGBT communication
- Media literacy
- Mobile digital-media literacy
- Praying
- Social support