COMM 601

Short paper 1

Communication and Lifespan Cohort Group

This paper asks you to construct an essay that describes your "communication world**" during the year of your birth**, and then reflects on potential conceptual connections between your current communication abilities, communication preferences, and communication values and qualities of your communication world during the year you were born.

A description of your communication world in the year of your birth should include, but is not limited to, descriptions of: major topics being discussed at home, media of the day (e.g., TV, radio, film, etc.), news of the day, stories that you were read, the music being played at home, the messages from whoever had contact with you, the toys, and so on.

Of course (as you were pre-linguistic), this means you will have to do some **archival research** to paint a general picture of the communication going around you when you arrived and **interviewing** to get a picture of the communication patterns at home. And as we talked about with socio-biological theories, some effects on human communication development are proximal (first order) and some are distal (second order) and you will need to attempt to sort out what might have been in your immediate communication environment and what else was outside that might have shaped the environment as you think about connecting the past to your communication today. Archival research will aid you in getting a big picture of your communication world, and interview work will get you some of the proximal details.

The length of the paper is up to you, but I think that constructing a table might be a useful way to summarize these various elements and then write about the results.

- Be sure to cite your sources
- The style of the *APA Publication Manual 6th* ed. Is the preferred style for writing assigments in COMM 601

Suggested sites to get your archival research started:

http://Whathappenedinmybirthyear.com

http://dmarie.com/timecap/step1.asp

http://www.thepeoplehistory.com/yearsanddecades.html