

# The social environment and human behavior

[Sociology](#)



Unit 6 Project Using the Perez Family Case Study, on the chart below, identify some of the red flags or areas of concerns that could cause potential developmental problems for the sisters. Then, list some of the changes that could be happening to each of the sisters, based on the information you have read in your text about the period of adolescence.

Lupe: 17

Anna: 15

Roselina: 13

Red Flags of possible areas of concern

Possible adventurousness to the point of recklessness, may reject authority figures and parental advice

Inability to identify with peer group at a point in time when it is most important; inability to gain social acceptance affects schoolwork

Possible erosion of importance given to family in favor of increasing importance of peer group to her

Biological Changes (brain development, growth spurts, hormones)

Has passed the stage of puberty, hormones no longer as active as during puberty

Possible onset of puberty, hormonal activity erratic and surging

Pre-puberty, hormones not yet active

Cognitive

(formal operational thought: abstract, hypothesis, testing)

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Aware of own capabilities and eager to explore individuality and independence

Awareness of self, and desire to fit in with peers

Just emerging from childhood, still accepts what is evident at face value

Information Processing

(irrational thoughts, impulsivity, more memories, intuition, truths)

Feelings of restrictive family environment, parents as hindrance to personal ambitions and self fulfillment

Irrational thoughts of self inadequacy and inferiority, need for security of parents, familiar surroundings

Concerns seldom go beyond the here and now. Lack of concern for duties and responsibilities as sign of immaturity.

In a 1- to 2-page paper, discuss how one sister's behaviors might influence the behaviors of the other sisters. Include reasons explaining how a red flag or area of concern for one sister can affect another sister's behavior?

Submitting your Assignment

Put your project in a Word document. Save it in a location and with a name that you will remember. When you are ready to submit it, go to the Dropbox and complete the steps below:

Click the link that says " Submit an Assignment."

In the " Submit to Basket" menu, select Unit 6: Project

In the " Comments" field, make sure to add at least the title of your paper.

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Click the “ Add Attachments” button.

Follow the steps listed to attach your Word document.

To view your graded work, come back to the Dropbox or go to the Gradebook after your instructor has evaluated it.

Make sure that you save a copy of your submitted assignment.

#### CASE STUDY

In a 1- to 2-page paper, discuss how one sister's behaviors might influence the behaviors of the other sisters. Include reasons explaining how a red flag or area of concern for one sister can affect another sister's behavior?

Sisters normally have a huge impact on one another because younger siblings of the same gender usually look up to their older siblings as models of proper behavior. For instance, at this point in time, Lupe at 17 years and nearly grown up, probably looks sophisticated, “ cool,” someone who always knows the right thing to do or to say at the right time. Lupe looks and acts every bit like an adult, and could do no wrong, particularly in the eyes of Anna who is at that awkward stage between childhood and adulthood. Anna is just coming to be aware of changes in her body as well as aware of her identity, and may be ashamed of changes happening to her. In fact, Lupe's and Rosalina's ease in blending in with friends and adapting to society may make Anna feel all the more inferior, unable to account for her feelings of inadequacy and inferiority when obviously her sisters do not feel the same. Anna is at that stage when her acceptance by her peer group is most important, except that she has not identified with her peer group in this new setting. Anna was taken away from her familiar circle of friends in her old home, and she has not yet developed an understanding of the group she is now connected with. She is uncertain of the standards by which she shall be

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judged by her peers, and uncertain of the behavior that is expected of her. Therefore, she withdraws, neglects her schoolwork, and wears clothes that manifest her insecurity by hiding as much of her body as possible.

Anna's actions must look weird to her sisters who do not feel the same insecurity as her. As a near grown-up, Lupe has outgrown her peer-group complex and is able to assert her individuality. Roselina is still basically a child and as such accepts nearly everything at face value. She probably does not understand what is going through Anna's mind, why she dresses strangely, hides from people, and doesn't make friends. However, as a pre-teen Roselina may be ashamed of her sister in front of other people because of what they may say about her. Roselina is an honor student, an athlete and outgoing girl, and she may be thriving in the admiration shown her by teachers and classmates. She may consider it a cause of embarrassment that her sister is doing poorly in her schoolwork, taking it to mean that Anna was probably "stupid" or lacking in intellectual ability.

Lupe, on the other hand, being the eldest, would probably put less importance upon her sisters' traits except to feel that family problems such as those posed to her by her sisters tend to constrain her from what she truly wants to do and who she wants to become. Lupe dreams of college, a job or possibly a career, the attainment of her childhood ambitions, and generally the freedom that comes from being on her own. Having two sisters whom she may be compelled (by either cultural tradition or family custom) to feel responsible for could be the "rigidness" the case referred to in describing Lupe's feelings.

Red flags that may be evident in the case of one sister may likewise trigger red flags for the other sisters. For instance, Anna has an apparently glaring

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red flag in her failure to adapt to her new surroundings and her social group. This may trigger a red flag for Lupe; feeling responsible for getting her sister through this apparently difficult situation may feel more constraining for her, prompting her to sooner escape to the new independent life she is looking forward to. Likewise, Anna's red flag could cause Roselina to earlier reject family importance as she enters into puberty, out of embarrassment or shame, and relegate family and the culture she had first been oriented to to an insignificant part of her life. This development may cause problems and a sense of discontinuity in her future life as an adult.