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## Parenting Style Interview

Select a friend, co-worker, or classmate to interview. Whoever you choose, they must be a legal adult (above the age of eighteen) and they should **not** be a member of your family. You may tell them it is an assignment about parenting, and that you will keep their identity entirely anonymous. **You must not reveal the specific nature of the interview.**

*Design four of your own questions* in advance about their upbringing, using the dimensions (expressions of warmth, strategies for discipline, communication patterns, and expectations of maturity) to guide your questions, in order to determine what “style,” if any, of Baumrind’s parenting they experienced growing up—*authoritarian, permissive, authoritative, or uninvolved*. You do not need to be sneaky in your questioning—the best inquiries are clear, direct, and unbiased (not pointed or leading). Try not to ask questions that can be answered in terms of “yes” and “no.” Great interview questions call for explanation and elaboration! Each question should **consist of one concise inquiry**, but short follow-up questions are acceptable (such as “how” or “why”). You should **not** reveal to your interviewee the descriptions of each parenting style. **If your subject happens to be a parent, do *not* ask them about their rearing strategies, only about their own upbringing.**

At the close of the interview, you will thank your participant, but you should **not** share your findings. After you compile your data, write an analysis of your interview. You should not include a written transcript of the entirety of the interview; **only your questions and important information from your subject** that helped you determine their parents’ style of raising them. If a quote is *direct*, it should be in quotations, or you may, at times, choose to *indirectly* paraphrase the gist of your participant’s answers, which do not require quotations. You must select a pseudonym (false first name) for your subject in the analysis; include the participant’s sex and age in your report, as well as any other demographic factors that may be *relevant* to note.

Use Baumrind’s four dimensions of parenting to help design your questions and come to a conclusion.

1. Expressions of warmth
2. Strategies for discipline
3. Communication
4. Expectations for maturity

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**NOTE:** The following descriptions are “sketches” of each parenting style to give you an idea of what each style looks like, but they are often **not** an exact portrait. You may need to call upon your critical thinking skills to draw conclusions. Also, it is crucial to remember that **all** parenting styles have the potential to produce happy, successful, and kind offspring, so don’t allow your personal feelings about your interviewee to cloud your clinical judgment (careful of backwards reasoning).

### Baumrind’s Styles of Parenting

#### **Authoritarian:**

- High discipline  
High standards and rules  
High parent to child communication  
Low child to parent communication  
High expectations of maturity

#### **Permissive:**

- Low discipline  
Low expectations of maturity  
Nurturing and accepting, high warmth  
High child to parent communication

#### **Authoritative:**

- Set limits and enforce rules  
Expect maturity, but are reasonable  
Strong 2-way communication

#### **Uninvolved:**

- Few demands, low responsiveness and little communication- generally detached  
Child’s basic needs may be fulfilled, or may be neglected

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**TABLE 10.2**

**Characteristics of Parenting Styles Identified by Baumrind**

Style	Characteristics			Communication	
	Warmth	Discipline	Expectations of Maturity	Parent to Child	Child to Parent
Authoritarian	Low	Strict, often physical	High	High	Low
Permissive	High	Rare	Low	Low	High
Authoritative	High	Moderate, with much discussion	Moderate	High	High

Your finished analyses should be approximately 3 pages in length. **Please do not waste space defining each parenting style** as filler; your understanding of the differences between the styles should become apparent in your analysis. Your work will be graded according to your question design, overall rationale in arriving at your conclusion, quality of data collected, and a demonstrated understanding of the application of the material. Your work should be organized into paragraphs, show strong academic language, critical thinking, a sequential flow of ideas, applied concepts from the course, and excellent spelling and grammar. Please attach your assignment as a Word or pdf document, double-spaced, in Times New Roman format size 12 on Blackboard. This assignment is worth 10 full points on your final grade.

Grading Rubric:

Question design: 4 points

Analysis and rationale for arriving at conclusions: 4 points

Style, tone, organization: 2 points