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Adolescent Identity Status Model



Overview

- Erikson used the term “crisis” for what adolescents (and others) had to go through
 - Marcia preferred “exploration” to crisis
- Levels of exploration and commitment defined each of the 4 statuses



Identity Diffusion

- Adolescents in this stage are not seriously attempting to sort through potential choices or make enduring commitments.

- Exploration: NO
- Commitment: NO



Identity Moratorium

- ◉ Adolescents in this stage are actively trying out different personal, occupational, and ideological possibilities, but haven't decided on much
 - Some possibilities stick, others don't
- ◉ Exploration: YES
- ◉ Commitment: NO



Identity Foreclosure

- These adolescents have chosen a path in life and how they will live without much thought on other possibilities

- Exploration: NO
- Commitment: YES



Identity Achievement

- Adolescents at this status have tried out a range of ideologies and pathways and have settled on the ones that suit them the best.

- Exploration: YES
- Commitment: YES



Celebrity Class Example

- ◉ Name a well-known adolescent celebrity or character
- ◉ Someone else....what status?
- ◉ Someone else...agree? why/why not?

Films with adolescent characters

- Grease
- Harry Potter
- Mean Girls
- The Breakfast Club
- High School Musical
- Ferris Buehler's Day Off
- Napoleon Dynamite
- 10 Things I Hate About You
- Hunger Games
- 16 Candles
- Divergent
- Fast Times at Ridgemont High
- Dazed and Confused
- Divergent
- Clueless
- Pretty in Pink
- Karate Kid
- Footloose
- AND MORE!