Personal Investigation Assignment: Adolescence Then and Now Step 1: Choose an interview subject Choose someone in your family or circle of family friends who is older than you (preferably the 1990s or earlier). This person could be your mother, father, grandparent, aunt, uncle or family friend. While the person does not necessarily have to be biologically related to you, you should share a kinship with the person. You will be interviewing this person about how a particular aspect of teen life has changed from this person’s time as an adolescent to your own time as a teenager today. Step2: Create a research question and hypothesis To decide upon a research question, you might first make a list of topics related to teen life that would be appropriate for you and your interview subject to discuss. Next, look at your list and choose one topic that captures your attention. What is it about that topic that makes you curious? What kind of open-ended research question could you ask about it? Be sure your research question is/includes: ● An independent and dependent variable. ● Relevant to both generations (e.g. social media did not exist in the 1980s/90s/00 therefore you may need to broaden your topic to media in general). ● Both interview subjects can answer the research questions based on their personal experiences (e.g. Topic is mental health and teens --- both generations must be able to speak to their personal experiences with regards to mental health). ● It is not biased. ● Concise: it is expressed in the fewest possible words. ● Clear: it provides enough specifics that one can easily understand its purpose without needing additional explanation. ● Focused: it is narrow enough that it can be answered thoroughly in the space the writing task allows (i.e. measurable suing an interview process of 8-10 questions for one person per generation) ● Complex: it is not answerable with a simple “yes” or “no,” but rather requires synthesis and analysis of ideas and sources prior to composition of an answer. ● Arguable: its potential answers are open to debate rather than accepted facts. Step 3: Create Interview Questions Complete the attached chart, creating questions that you and your interview subject will be answering. Your questions should be largely open-ended and thought-provoking in order to elicit a more elaborate response from your subject. Avoid closed questions that will elicit a one or two word answer. You will eventually submit this chart with your final product. Note: Questions must be reviewed by your teacher (“ethics committee”) before you interview anyone. HSP3U \*Check our website for Step-Be-Step instructions to developing interview questions\* Step 4: Conduct the Interview Schedule an interview with your subject. Be prepared, introduce your topic and research focus to them, but do not reveal your hypothesis (you might do this after the interview if you like). Inform your subject about how their information will be used. Record their responses to your questions on the chart. Be sure to thank your subject for their time and answer any further questions that they may have about your study. \*Respond to the questions yourself.\* Note: You will need to include your information about your interview subject and the date and place that your interview took place in your “references”. Interview: Last name, FI. (Year, Month date). Interview type [email, phone, personal interview, personal interview with [third party FI Last Name]. Example: Cloyd, A. (2014, July 29). Personal interview with S. Kim. Step 5: Analysis Analyze the responses you’ve given and the responses given by your interview subject. Your goal is to see whether your hypothesis was proven or not. What final answer can you give for your research question posed at the beginning of your study? INTRODUCTION: ● Introduce your topic. ● State research question and hypothesis. ● Define key terms (i.e. independent variable, dependent variable), as well other terms used in research question may also need to be defined (e.g. if measuring someone's success in academics what are you using to measure their success) ● Provide a brief introduction of your interview subjects and the overarching conclusions you can draw from the similarities and/or differences in their responses. BODY PARAGRAPHS Compare and contrast your interview responses. This should be 2 - 3 paragraphs and include quotes from the interviews as evidence to support or refute your hypothesis and provide an indepth analysis of the similarities/differences. ● How, in spite of growing up in different times or places or alongside different groups, did the subjects of your interview share similar or different behaviours or views? ● What might be the cause of the different behaviours or experiences in adolescent years? CONCLUSION Paragraph #1 ● State whether the hypothesis was supported or not. ● Summarize your results. Paragraph #2 ● Reflect: HSP3U ○ How can this knowledge be applied? ○ What new questions does this knowledge raise? ○ How can this research be taken this further? ○ Should this be tested again to confirm results? ○ Should this be tested again with a new or modified version? ○ What changes should be made to improve the accuracy of results? ○ Any bias? \*Don’t forget to include your References and In-Text Citations in APA format. References get their own page