

Reflections on Prenatal Development & Systems of Support

Answer the following questions by reflecting on your experiences, your thoughts, and your self-knowledge. Write your answers in complete and detailed sentences. These questions are intended to give you a better understanding of culture, prenatal development, and childbirth.

1). From the Systems of Support readings (pages 6-8) identify and write down in the space provided below the most important prenatal development fact from one of either the microsystem, exosystem, or macrosystem. Provide a brief explanation as to why you consider this fact you've identified to be the most important. Use examples where appropriate to help support your answer.

2). There has been some debate in our society about whether or a fetus is a "person". What are your thoughts? In your opinion, at what stage does a fetus finally become a person? What are their rights?

3). Are you aware mothers and fathers can receive financial supports/benefits from the Government of Saskatchewan, e.g. parental leave, childcare allowance, tax benefits, etc. Use a government website and/or call some sort of relevant public service in your region to find out the exact parental benefits available to parents in your home province or country.

4). Discuss your opinion of the type of role a father would take during labor and delivery. For example, should he be in the delivery room?

5). Imagine that you live in a futuristic period where overpopulation is a great concern and prospective parents must apply to the government for a license to have a child of their own. List four facts or ideas that you might present to the committee that would illustrate your commitment to ensuring a healthy *prenatal* development of the child?

6). There is a trend currently where women and doctors are scheduling when their babies will be delivered. They opt for using the caesarean method. Supporters of the caesarean method agree that the physical risks and emotional stress associated with labor could be avoided. The birthing occurs according to the family's and the hospital's schedule. Others react to this trend and say that nature should be allowed to take its course and that the caesarean method should only be used because of medical concerns and only if necessary. What is your opinion on this trend? Do you oppose this trend or support it? Explain.

3). The demands of parenting include many responsibilities and commitments. What are you least looking forward to about becoming a parent? What are you most looking forward to?