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Reflection #1

In this reflection, I will be using the model from Urie Bronfenbrenner to reflect on a particular time in my childhood. I chose to examine my development when I was 17. I will be reflecting on my microsystem, mesosystem, exosystem, macrosystem, and chronosystem when I was 17.

According to Bronfenbrenner, the microsystem includes the interactions that people have with their home, school, and friends. At the age of 17, my microsystem at home consists of my large family. I live in a family of nine with my mom, my dad, my three brothers, and my three sisters. I get along with my parents and most of my siblings except for my older brother. At 17, I attended Maggie L. Walker Governor's School which is a public magnet high school in Richmond, Virginia. I enjoyed learning from my teachers at my high school. My teachers gave a strong foundation in my education and I am very grateful for the education that they provided me with. I knew many people at my high school but I mainly had a small group of friends that I spent time with. My close friends were people that I enjoyed being around and that I trusted. I didn't watch TV shows when I was 17 but I did spend a lot of time watching YouTube videos. I had a surrounding community of strangers and family members that I didn't really interact with.

The mesosystem is the system that brings two settings together such as the school setting and the home setting. At the age of 17, my mesosystem was less existent compared to other children. My parents did not interact with any of my peers and my peers did not interact with my parents. I think that it was because I never introduced any of my friends to my parents and my

parents were never interested in meeting any of my peers. My parents rarely interacted with my high school. My mother came to my parent-teacher conferences in my freshman year of high school but stopped attending them soon after. My parents wanted me to do well in high school but never were interested in anything that I did in school. When I was 17 I rarely interacted with my surrounding community. Therefore, my community never really supported my school or my activities. However, I did have relatives that encouraged me to work hard in high school. On the whole, I did not have a complex or developed mesosystem.

Bronfenbrenner explained that the exosystem consists of settings that a child never enters but that still affects a child's development, such as a parent's workplace. When I was 17, my mother stayed at home and took care of my younger siblings. As an older sibling in the house, I also had to help take care of my younger siblings. My father worked in construction and landscaping. He would work long hours doing a lot of manual labor. He would work most days of the week for about 12 hours each day. As a result, I didn't spend a lot of time with my father during my childhood. When I was 17, I had winter and summer breaks in high school but I never went on vacation. I never travelled anywhere but I did spend time exploring the city of Richmond. My parents were not divorcing when I was 17 but I did notice that there was a lack of intimacy and connection between them. I think that perhaps they have a hard time expressing their feelings to each other or that they don't know how to express their feelings for each other. They also never really expressed any love or appreciation for me when I was growing up in my teenage years so I feel like I never developed a close bond with my parents. I think that the lack of intimacy in my parent's marriage also was apparent in their relationship with me. I do think

that my father's workplace and my parents' marriage affected my development even though I never interacted with those settings.

The macrosystem consists of cultural norms that impact the development of a child. My ethnic heritage originates in Mexico. My parents are from Mexico and I was born and raised in Virginia. When I was 17 and even today I consider myself to be Mexican-American. I grew up in a Hispanic household so I experienced Latin American culture and Spanish was the first language that I spoke. When I was 17 years old I was not religious. My family is Catholic and my parents raised me Catholic but when I became a teenager, I realized that I didn't believe in the existence of a God. Therefore, I now identify as not religious or atheist. I have lived in Richmond, Virginia all of my life which is an urban setting. I definitely prefer to live in an urban setting than a rural setting and growing up in a big city has probably influenced my preferences. All of my life, my family and I have been in the lower class. My family never had a lot of money when I was growing up and I think that has definitely affected my development during my childhood in positive and negative ways. I often compared myself with other people who had more money than me, especially when I was 17. On the other hand, growing up poor made me value things and people more.

The chronosystem consists of the events that take place in a child's life. When I was 17, Donald Trump was president of the United States. Overall, I do not approve of President Trump because I think that he lacks the characteristics of an effective leader. Several major events occurred when I was 17. The first ever image of a black hole was revealed in April 2019. I have always been interested and intrigued by black holes so when this image of a black hole came out I was really surprised. I think that this event invigorated my interest in learning more about space

and our universe. Another major event that occurred when I was 17 was the burning of the Notre-Dame cathedral in April 2019. I remember learning about the Notre Dame cathedral and other French architecture in my French class so I was very surprised when a fire broke out at the Notre Dame. I think that the burning of the Notre Dame was a reminder that nothing lasts forever. Significant issues when I was 17 were climate change, political instability around the world, and the U.S. economy.

In conclusion, I have reflected on my development as a child using the model from Urie Bronfenbrenner. By using Bronfenbrenner's model, I can examine how my interactions with my environment have impacted my development as a child. I think that this reflection has helped me learn more about myself and who I am.