**This paper should be roughtly 750 words – two to three pages (12 point font). Please include a cover sheet with your name, the class section, and the title of the writing assignment.**

**Assignment #1: Perspectives: Ways of Seeing, Not Seeing, and Being Deceived**

In class we have argued that perspectives – ways of seeing – both facilitate and constrain what we see when we examine the world. In so doing we used the analogy of perspectives as flashlights illuminating restricted – and therefore incomplete – segments of a dark room. Since no one perspective can either describe or explain the totality of the world, there will always be a plurality of perspectives, each with their distinctive strengths and blindspots.

Using examples discussed in class that focus on either psychological or sociological phenomena briefly discuss (1) The Burke Theorem: “A way of seeing is also a way of not seeing - a focus upon object A involves a neglect of object B,”(2) Maslow’s Hammer: “It is tempting, if the only tool you have is a hammer, to treat everything as if it were a nail,” and the two related phenomena (3) “believing is seeing,” and (4) “seeing is deceiving.”

How will your understanding of the role that perspectives play aid your analysis of the development of human beings across the life span?