

PERCEPTIONS OF PARENT-ADOLESCENT CONFLICT

By

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Problem Definition

The development of children into healthy, mature adults depends considerably upon the quality of the parent-child relationship. Conflict between parents and children is an inevitable and important part of the child's development. It teaches children how to deal with conflict between themselves and others which they will face in the future as adults.

In general, adolescence is considered to be a period of much increased turmoil and conflict for youth and their parents. Various theories concerning the reason for increased conflict between parents and adolescents have been postulated. The struggle for independence from parents, physiological changes in the adolescent body and the attempt to accomplish developmental tasks are some of these views.

Some researchers hold that adolescence is not naturally a period of increased turmoil and conflict. Rather, it is a result of cultural conditioning and expectations (Bandura, 1964; Mead, 1961). However, "some amount of conflict within a family is inevitable, merely because two--sometimes three--generations are living together" (Cole and Hall, 1970, p. 400).

Because of the significance of the parent-adolescent relationship

to the maturing adolescent, the study of conflict during this age period is important. Much research has been conducted concerning parent-adolescent conflict. Main areas of study include whether or not there is increased conflict during adolescence, areas and sources of conflict and conformity of adolescents.

One area of parent-adolescent conflict which has not been studied frequently is parental and adolescent perceptions of this conflict. A study of this specific type of family conflict and the parental and adolescent perceptions involved offers an opportunity to investigate this important aspect of family life. Congruency of perceptions held by parents and adolescents has been studied in the areas of parental behavior, parent-child roles, adolescent problems and family relationships. Some of these studies have postulated a relationship between incongruency of perceptions and conflict (Kauffman, Hallahan, and Ball, 1975; Maxwell, Connor, and Walters, 1961).

It is important to the study of family life to investigate adolescent perceptions of parent-adolescent conflict. As Ittelson (1960, p. 7) points out "...the individual acts in any situation in terms of the way he perceives that situation. Perception, then, becomes a crucial process intimately involved in the effective functioning of the individual". Therefore, knowledge of this area can enable parents and adolescents to better understand the nature of this aspect of their relationships, the behavior of each, and how to deal with it in order to have more satisfactory relationships. Such research could be used by family counselors and others who work with families. The present research was designed to provide increased understanding and knowledge about adolescent perceptions of conflict.

Purpose of the Study

The general purpose of this study was to investigate the perceptions of adolescents concerning their parent-adolescent conflicts. Perceptions of conflict frequency, persons involved and their behavior, cause of conflict and severity of conflict were investigated. The specific purposes of this study were to:

1. Develop an instrument for measuring perceptions of adolescents concerning their parent-adolescent conflict.

2. Measure and compare the perceptions of adolescents concerning frequency of conflicts with parents, severity of conflict and degree to which parent-adolescent conflicts are resolved in relation to the following:

- a. Sex of adolescent.
- b. Age of adolescent.
- c. Living arrangements of adolescent.
- d. Degree of adolescent satisfaction with the parent-adolescent relationship.

- e. Adolescent's perceived family strength.

3. Compare Pattern of Conflict Scale scores (based on average scores of the adolescent and his/her parents) with the following:

- a. Sex of adolescent.
- b. Age of adolescent.
- c. Degree of adolescent satisfaction with the parent-adolescent relationship.

4. Compare perceived severity of conflict and Pattern of Conflict Scale scores.

Hypotheses

The hypotheses tested were:

1. There is no significant relationship between the perceptions of adolescents concerning frequency of conflicts with parents and each of the following:

- a. Sex of adolescent.
- b. Age of adolescent.
- c. Living arrangements of adolescent.
- d. Degree of adolescent satisfaction with the parent-adolescent relationship.
- e. Adolescent's perceived family strength.

2. There is no significant relationship between perceptions of adolescents concerning severity of conflict and each of the following:

- a. Sex of adolescent.
- b. Age of adolescent.
- c. Living arrangements of adolescent.
- d. Degree of adolescent satisfaction with the parent-adolescent relationship.
- e. Adolescent's perceived family strength.

3. There is no significant relationship between perceptions of adolescents concerning degree to which parent-adolescent conflicts are resolved and each of the following:

- a. Sex of adolescent.
- b. Age of adolescent.
- c. Living arrangements of adolescent.
- d. Degree of adolescent satisfaction with the parent-adolescent relationship.

e. Adolescent's perceived family strength.

4. There is no significant relationship between Pattern of Conflict Scale scores (based on average scores of the adolescent and his/her parents) and each of the following:

a. Sex of adolescent.

b. Age of adolescent

c. Degree of adolescent satisfaction with the parent-adolescent relationship.

d. Adolescent's perceived family strength.

5. There is no significant relationship between perceptions of severity of conflict and Pattern of Conflict Scale scores.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The literature concerning parent-adolescent conflict is abundant. However, no study concerning parent and adolescent perceptions of the conflict was discovered by the author's review of literature. The literature reviewed here is concerned with those areas of parent-adolescent conflict which have been studied. Included in this review are the controversy of whether adolescence is a period of conflict, areas of conflict, and perceptions of parent-child relations.

Conflict in Adolescence

Much research in the area of parent-adolescent conflict concerned itself with the controversy of whether adolescence is a period of "storm and stress". Bandura and Walters (1959) and Stanton (1964) represented the view that adolescence is not a period of increased conflict. Other writings and studies such as those by Liccione (1955), McArthur (1962), Scherz (1967), Count (1967) and Thurnher, Spence, and Lowenthal (1974) held the position that conflict in adolescence is a result of the developmental stages of adolescents, adults, and the family. Therefore, they viewed conflict during adolescence as normal. Still other researchers viewed adolescent, and, more specifically, parent-adolescent conflict as the result of socio-cultural background. Davis (1940), Dinkel (1943), Schiamberg (1969) and Traub and Dodder

(1974) supported this view.

Bandura and Walters (1959) found little support for the general idea that adolescence is a period of "storm and stress" or that adolescents are struggling to gain their independence from their parents. Rather, this study indicated that independence was more a conflict for parents than for the adolescent male subjects. Bandura (1964) concluded:

If a society labels its adolescents as 'teen-agers', and expects them to be rebellious, unpredictable, sloppy, and wild in their behavior, and if this picture is repeatedly reinforced by the mass media, such cultural expectations may well force adolescents into the role of rebel (p. 230).

In Stanton's (1964) study, relationships with parents were reported to be consistent for both sexes between ages 13 and 17. Most of the students considered their relationships satisfactory; however, 20% of the males and 15% of the females reported not very good or poor relationships. Stanton concluded that the term conflict is not valuable in general statements about parent-adolescent relations.

Liccione (1955) stated that, in general, it is recognized that phases of life are characterized by specific sets of problems or areas of adjustment. The study supported the idea that parent-child relationships is one area of adjustment for adolescent girls. Liccione found that conflict between mother and daughter increased until age 15 and dropped at age 17 while conflict between father and daughter decreased from age nine to 15 and increased at age 17.

McArthur (1962) assumed that parents and adolescents are in direct conflict as a result of their attempts to accomplish their specific developmental tasks. Havighurst and Taba (cited in McArthur, 1962) listed the following developmental tasks:

Developmental tasks of the adolescent include:

1. Achieving emotional independence from parents
2. Achieving socially responsible behavior
3. Achieving new and more mature relations with
agemates and both sexes.

Developmental tasks of the adult include:

1. Assisting adolescents to become responsible adults
2. Achieving adult civic and social responsibility
3. Relating to one's own spouse as a person (p. 189).

Scherz (1967) and Count (1967) also viewed adolescence as a developmental phase. Scherz (1967) viewed families with adolescents as moving through "a stage of transitional crisis characterized by confusion" (p. 209). Parents and adolescents both have tasks and problems which interlock during this family life stage. Likewise, conflict was viewed by Count (1967) as a critical factor in the adolescent growth process which can retard or further personal development. Count considered this phase to be even more difficult when adults are around who are in conflict about their receding generation role.

Thurnher, Spence and Lowenthal (1974) conducted a study with high school students and parents. The authors found that the majority of the subjects reported conflict with the reasons for conflict centering around authority and independence. Thus, the researchers stated that the existing conflicts were typical of the adolescent's stage of development.

Davis (1940) presented the view that the notable amount of parent-adolescent conflict in western civilization is the result of the interaction of constants and variables. Constants are universal factors in parent-adolescent relations and variables are factors varying from society to society. Davis wrote that the time-interval between generations becomes very important with rapid change as in modern civilization. This change leads to conflict because parents and youth are

reared in different environments.

In a study of 50 Minnesota families, Dinkel (1943) concluded that the conflict with children reported by aged parents (those over 65 at the time of the interview) was largely a confrontation of different cultures. During the time period in question there was a move toward urban living. Thus, the children's culture was one of urban life while that of the aged parent was rural life.

Schiamberg (1969) explained parent-adolescent conflict from a cultural anthropological viewpoint which holds that parent-adolescent relationships are related to particular personalities, circumstances and cultural and societal values and norms. Schiamberg (1969) concluded:

Nontechnological societies which have relatively clearcut and broadly accepted societal goals and values have less adolescent-parent conflict than societies in which individuals are confronted with the choice of many different occupations and life styles (p. 355).

Thus, he stated that the conflict experienced by parents and adolescents living in the West, is directly related to sociocultural background.

Scales developed by Traub and Dodder (1974) were based on the view that behavioral differences between adults and youth are a result of the acceptance and use of different conduct norms rather than a discontinuity of values. They stated that adults accept the "Established" normative system based on history, and youth accept the "Emergent" normative system which is not based upon history.

Areas of Conflict

Many studies were conducted concerning areas of parent-adolescent conflict. Connor, Johannis, and Walters (1954), Skorupska (1958),

Eckhardt and Schriner (1969), Kinloch (1970), and Schvaneveldt (1973) were among those contributing to this area of research.

Connor, Johannis and Walters (1954) revealed most frequent conflicts to be in the general area of dating and mate selection with specific sources in this area being "(a) hours to be in from dates and (b) whom to date" (p. 185). Other general areas of conflict were standards and values of personal appearance, conduct, health, and parental behavior. Areas of few conflicts included vocation-occupation, church and religion, participation in activities at home, money, and political views. Nagging was considered the most frequent problem under parental behavior.

Skorupska's (1958) study of 100 young people conducted near Warsaw indicated that conflicts occur most frequently in the home with the mother or both parents simultaneously. The young people mentioned opinion differences, restrictions imposed upon their independence, adult character traits, and disobedience of youth as causes of conflicts. Adult character traits causing conflict included noisiness, lack of leniency toward young people, talkativeness, lack of confidence in young people, and lack of knowledge about proper judgment of young people. Young people's traits contributing to conflict included lack of self-control, nervousness, disobedience, and defense of their freedom. Because of the small sample size, the author warned against generalization.

In a study involving conflict, rebellion and political expression, Eckhardt and Schriner (1969) considered nine areas of parent-adolescent relationships to be sources of difficulty. These included "dating, selection of clothes, spending money, cars, school work, use of leisure

time, joining voluntary organization, type of friends, and career plans" (p. 497). The authors stated that parental discipline was also a factor producing conflict.

Kinloch (1970) studied parent-youth conflict during high school as reported by university freshmen. The author found that the five most frequent issues resulting in conflict were eating dinner with the family, arguing, church attendance, going around with certain boys or girls, and being home enough.

Areas of conflict denoted in Schvaneveldt's (1973) study of Mormon adolescents included performing home chores, use of time, attitude toward studies, and expenditures of money. Lower ratings were given to use of the telephone and use of clothes. "The major problems as seen by both generations involve gaps in communication, deficiencies in understanding, and one generation groping toward the other each partially blinded to the other".

Congruency of Perceptions

No research concerning adolescent and parental perceptions of parent-adolescent conflict was discovered by this review of literature. However, many studies concerning perceptions of parent-child relations were conducted. Although most of the studies dealt with perceptions of various aspects of the relationship other than parent-adolescent conflict, several studies made reference to the effect of perceptions and congruency of perceptions on parent-adolescent conflict.

Maxwell, Connor, and Walters (1961) stated that conflict between family members is frequently the result of differences in perceptions of everyday patterns of interaction. In this study of 50 adolescents

and their mothers and fathers, the data indicated, in general, perceptions of parent-adolescent relationships are not a function of the responding family member's role. In a majority of instances the father's and mother's scaled ratings were very close and there was more agreement between responses of mothers and adolescents than between responses of fathers and adolescents. Adolescents tended to rate the parent-adolescent relationship more favorably than the fathers or mothers. This study showed that mothers nagged their adolescents more frequently than fathers did.

One hypothesis of Serot and Teevan (1961) concerning perceptions of parent-child relationships and child adjustment was that the child's and parents' perceptions of the relationship are unrelated. The results of this study of fourth graders indicated that there is very little similarity between the parents' and child's perception of the parent-child relationship. The researchers concluded that others have failed to consider the fact that children react to their perceptions of situations rather than directly to the situation.

Hess and Torney (1962) and Grinder and Spector (1965) conducted studies concerned with child and adolescent perceptions of parental power. Hess and Torney found the number of children who reported father as "boss" decreased with age and that during adolescence a tendency to view mother and father as equal in power increased for both males and females. Grinder and Spector found in their study of 114 adolescents in grades 9, 10, and 12 that "girls attribute relatively more power and status to their mothers; whereas boys attribute relatively more power and status to their fathers" (p. 342).

Meissner (1965) stated that adolescents' needs affect their

perceptions of home and parents. Meissner gave a questionnaire to 1278 Catholic high school boys. The results of the questionnaire indicated differential perceptions of mothers and fathers. The data showed that the perceptions of fathers as colder, more indifferent, old-fashioned, unreasonable and less understanding and of mothers as more friendly, interested, nervous, understanding and reasonable became more dominant as the adolescent moved through high school. Also, there was a trend toward more conflict as the boy grew older. Meissner pointed out that detectible differences between perceptions of adolescents and parents seemed to be present.

Freeman (1967) based his study on the view that parents and adults do not understand adolescents because they do not perceive adolescent problems in the same way as adolescents do. The author found:

a) students perceived adolescent problems similarly, (b) parents perceived adolescent problems similarly, (c) students tended to perceive adolescent problems in a more similar manner than did the parents (Freeman, 1967, p. 4126-A)

Matteson's (1974) study of 40 sets of adolescents and their parents indicated that adolescents with low self-esteem were more dissatisfied with the way parents communicate with them than adolescents with high self-esteem. Support was found for the hypothesis that evaluations of parent-adolescent communication would be incongruent for low self-esteem adolescents and their parents. In conclusion, Matteson (1974) stated:

If we assume that perceptions do have a significant impact on attitudes and behavior, as research evidence strongly indicates, such incongruence could very well be a source of conflict that contributes a great deal to family communication problems (p. 46).

Kauffman, Hallahan, and Ball (1975) pointed out that the congruency of family concepts held by children and parents and parents' ability to predict children's perceptions may be very important to the assessment of family patterns of conflict. In studying perceptions of family relations in normal families, these researchers found that the parents predicted their children's perceptions more accurately than would be expected to occur by chance. However, the parents tended to overestimate their own centrality in their children's perceptions and tended to be more accurate in their predictions of the children's perceptions of them. More negative feelings were anticipated by the parents about themselves rather than about their spouses, and both parents felt that their children had more negative feelings about them than the children reported.

Parent-Adolescent Communication

Poor communication skills are generally thought to contribute to conflict between persons. Likewise, good communication is thought to be a viable way of solving conflicts. Therefore, a section on parent-adolescent communication was included.

Haring (1967) studied 34 adolescents with problems, their mothers and 18 of their fathers. The findings were in agreement with other studies that boys and girls prefer to communicate with the mother rather than with the father and that boys are less free in their communication with others than girls.

In measuring parent-adolescent communication, Bienvenu (1969) found that adolescents felt that fathers were a little more trusting and that mothers were more critical. Also, it was found that

adolescents value respect from parents for their (adolescents') opinions. Adolescents also value parental expressions of confidence in their children's abilities.

Herzog and Sudia's (1970) article concerning results of a questionnaire mailed to high school students about youth's opinion of the generation gap reported that most of the teenagers felt that the generation gap is a lack of interest by young people and older people to talk to each other. The adolescents complained that parents do not respect teenagers' opinions, fail to recognize the importance of problems to teenagers and do not compromise. Over half of the answering adolescents wrote that teenagers are at fault also because of failure to listen and communicate.

Kifer, Lewis, Green and Phillips (1974) stated that many youths use inappropriate responses in conflict situations. The purpose of their study of predelinquent youths and their parents was to determine whether negotiation skills could be taught to parents and youth simultaneously, the effect of these skills, and the extent of skill generalization to discussions of conflict situations in their homes. The results showed that the training procedures used were successful in training parents and youths in negotiation behaviors which produce agreement in conflict situations and that these behaviors generalized to conflict situations in homes of the subjects.

Collins, Cassel and Harper (1975) conducted a study to determine the amount of insight parents had about adolescent problems. This in turn indicated areas in which parent-child communication gap was greatest. Courtship, sex and marriage and personal psychological relationships were indicated as areas of low communication levels.

Adolescent reticence to communicate problems to parents was postulated to be the reason for a lack of communication in this area. It was also found that mother-daughter communication is highest. Collins, et al., concluded that generally, parents are not aware of adolescent problems. The importance of this conclusion is revealed by Ausubel (1954) who claimed that parents should be aware of specific adjustment problems of the child if they are going to be involved in parent-child conflicts during the adolescence of their child.

Childrearing Practices

Landis (1954) conducted a study about teenage adjustment and democratic, intermediate, and authoritarian types of families. The results showed that teenagers from democratic homes were much better adjusted than those from authoritarian homes. This adjustment included less conflict with parents and fewer overall problems. Authoritarian parents were found to be more frequently in disagreement with their adolescents over common issues than democratic parents. Also, girls in authoritarian families disagreed with parents more than boys.

In a study of 103 college females concerning parent-adolescent conflict, Bath and Lewis (1962) found that family practice was often more restrictive in families having conflict than families having little conflict. Also, a comparison of family practice and conflict indicated that when parental practices are inconsistent, conflict is more likely to occur.

The study by Elder (1963) involving parental power legitimation indicated that legitimation of power by the parents improves relations between adolescents and parents and tends to encourage behavioral

conformity in relation to parental rules. The subjects were adolescents in grades nine through 12 and their homes were categorized as autocratic, democratic and permissive. Adolescents with democratic parents who explained rules frequently were more likely to comply. Thus, it was concluded that in relation to adolescent conformity, frequency of explanations by parents was more important than level of power.

In a study by Kandel and Lesser (1969) concerning adolescent independence and parent-adolescent relations in Denmark and the United States, parental power was categorized as authoritarian, democratic and permissive. The authoritarian parent makes all decisions, the democratic parent and adolescent make decisions jointly and the permissive parent has less influence than the adolescent in the decision-making process according to Kandel and Lesser. It was found that Danish families communicate with each other more extensively than American families and adolescents in both countries who experience sufficient freedom report conflicts with parents less frequently than those who want more freedom.

Balswick and Macrides (1975) suggest that structural components within the family may contribute to adolescent conflict and rebellion. "One of the dynamics of family interaction especially present when the child is a teenager, is parentally induced frustration which leads to the adolescent's aggression" (p. 254). In this study, it was found that the least amount of rebellion occurred in homes where it is clear that one parent has a little more power over the other but not enough to usurp the authority of the other. In relation to other variables, the least amount of rebellion was found in homes which are patriarchal and happy and patriarchal and average in permissiveness. Rebellion

was found to be high in equalitarian homes and families in which the father or mother has much authority. Also, patriarchal and unhappy homes and patriarchal and very permissive or restrictive homes result in high rates of adolescent rebellion.

Social Class

Studies and writings involving social class and conflict, child-rearing and conformity were conducted by Tuma and Livson (1960), Kohn (1962) and Jacob (1974). From their data, Tuma and Livson suggest that the lower the socioeconomic status of the family, the more compliant the boy will be to authority regardless of whether it is at home or elsewhere. However, educational levels of parents, and especially of the mother, are more powerful indicators of boys' attitudes toward authority with a negative relationship between the mother's educational level and the boys' authority attitude being present. Also, it was found that girls tended to show higher conformity than boys.

Kohn (1962) states in his essay that "middle class parents seem to regard child-rearing as more problematic than do working-class parents" (p.473). Working-class parents stress obedience to parental rules and commands much more than middle-class parents who are concerned with the child's motives and feelings. Thus, middle-class parents look beyond the child's overt behavior to why the child acts in certain ways.

Jacob's (1974) study of family conflict patterns in relation to social class and child's age showed that in middle-class families with an 11 year old child, the influence structure reflects relative equality between parents who are more influential than the son. With an

adolescent son, the father retains his relative influence and the child gains influence at the expense of the mother. The influence structure of the lower-class family is similar to that of the middle-class family when the child is younger. Both parents are more influential than the child with the father having somewhat more influence than the mother. Also, the influence of the lower-class mother tends to decrease when the son gains influence at adolescence. However, in contrast to middle-class fathers, the influence of lower-class fathers tends to decrease when the son reaches adolescence.

Summary

The review of literature concerning parent-adolescent conflict suggests that there is doubt as to whether or not adolescence is a natural period of increased conflict. However, this period of development and the conflict which accompanies it is considered important enough to warrant much research. The review also indicates that differing perceptions held by parents and adolescents may contribute to the conflict experienced by these people. Various types of child-rearing practices, lack of communication, ways of communicating and social class were shown to influence parent-adolescent conflict.

CHAPTER III

PROCEDURE

Subjects

The subjects for this study were ninth-, tenth-, eleventh- and twelfth-grade students enrolled in the Guthrie Public Schools, Guthrie, Oklahoma. The ninth-grade subjects were enrolled in a required Civics class and the tenth-, eleventh- and twelfth-grade subjects were enrolled in required English classes. A total sample of 216 subjects, 112 males and 104 females, was obtained. The subjects were single and predominantly from homes in which both biological parents were present.

One teacher at the junior high and one at the high school selected the classes in which the questionnaires were distributed. The subjects' teachers were instructed to read aloud to the students three short paragraphs on the first page of the questionnaire which explained the research, assured subjects of anonymity and voluntary participation, and included instructions for completing the questionnaires. The data was obtained during the month of December, 1976.

Instrument

A questionnaire developed by the author was used to measure adolescent perceptions of parent-adolescent conflict. Items concerning

sex, age, grade and living arrangements were included as background data. Fixed, alternative-type and open-ended questions dealt with such aspects of parent-adolescent conflict as: (a) frequency, seriousness, and resolution of conflict; (b) reasons for conflict; (c) parent-adolescent relationship; and (d) persons' involvement in conflict. A scale (Pattern of Conflict Scale) for rating conflict situation responses developed for a recent study (Stinnett, 1976) and modified in order to obtain information about conflict situations responses of mother, father and adolescent was used. Kandel and Lesser's (1969) definitions for authoritarian, democratic and permissive parental power were used in a question relating to childrearing practices in the adolescents' families.

The questionnaire was presented to a panel of four judges. They were asked to rate the items in terms of the following criteria:

- (1) Does the item possess clarity?
- (2) Is the item specific?
- (3) Is the item significantly related to the concept under investigation?
- (4) Are there other items which need to be included to more adequately measure the concept under investigation?

Analysis of Data

All questions were analyzed with a percentage of frequency count. The chi-square test was utilized to examine the null hypotheses that there is no significant relationship between perceptions of adolescents concerning frequency of conflicts with parents, severity of conflict and degree to which parent-adolescent conflicts are resolved and each

of the following:

- (a) Sex of adolescent;
- (b) Age of adolescent;
- (c) Living arrangements of adolescents;
- (d) Degree of adolescent satisfaction with the parent-adolescent relationship; and
- (e) Adolescent's perceived family strength.

The one-way classification Analysis of Variance was used to examine two null hypotheses. (1) There is no significant relationship between Pattern of Conflict Scale Scores and each of the following:

- (a) Sex of adolescent;
- (b) Age of adolescent;
- (c) Degree of adolescent satisfaction with the parent-adolescent relationship; and
- (d) Adolescent's perceived family strength.

(2) There is no significant relationship between perceptions of severity of conflict and Pattern of Conflict Scale Scores.

The chi-square test was used to do an item analysis and the split-half reliability coefficient was used to test the reliability of the Pattern of Conflict Scale items.

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS

Description of Subjects

A detailed description of the 216 subjects who participated in this study is presented in Table I. The sample consisted of 112 (51.85%) males and 104 (48.15%) females. Their ages ranged from 13 to 19 with approximately half in the ages of 14 (24.51%) and 15 (27.94%) years. The subjects were enrolled in grades ranging from freshman (31.48%) to senior (21.76%) in high school. The greatest percentage (70.89%) of the subjects lived with their natural (biological) parents.

The Item Analysis

The chi-square test was used in obtaining an index of the validity of the items in the Pattern of Conflict Scale, in which the significance of difference among those subjects scoring in the upper quartile, middle fifty percent, and lower quartile on 13 of the 15 items was determined. As is shown in Table II, 10 of the 15 items were significantly discriminating at the .0001 level while the remaining 3 were significant at the .003, .0003 and .01 levels.

A split-half reliability coefficient of +0.60 was obtained in determining an index of reliability of the items in the Pattern of Conflict Scale.

TABLE I
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SUBJECTS

Variable	Classification	No.	%
Sex	Male	112	51.85
	Female	104	48.15
Age	13	1	.49
	14	50	24.51
	15	57	27.94
	16	39	19.12
	17	39	19.12
	18	17	8.33
	19	1	.49
Grade	Freshman	68	31.48
	Sophomore	54	25.00
	Junior	47	21.76
	Senior	47	21.76
Living Arrangements	With natural (biological) parents	151	70.89
	With natural (biological) parent only (no spouse present in home)	23	10.80
	With one natural (biological) parent and one step parent	28	13.15
	With adoptive parents	7	3.29
	With other	4	1.88

Perceptions of Adolescents Concerning
Conflict With Their Parents

Percentages and frequency counts were used to examine the perceptions of adolescents concerning conflict with their parents. The results concerning each of these perceptions are now presented.

TABLE II

ITEM ANALYSIS BASED ON COMPARISONS OF THE UPPER QUARTILE, MIDDLE
FIFTY PERCENT, AND LOWER QUARTILE OF TOTAL
PATTERN OF CONFLICT SCALE SCORES

Item	df	χ^2	Level of Sig.
1. Is specific when introducing a gripe.	4	1.54	N.S.
2. Mainly complains.	4	35.54	.0001
3. Sticks to one issue at a time	4	15.70	.003
4. Is intolerant.	4	21.30	.0003
5. Is willing to compromise.	4	25.58	.0001
6. Calls others names (such as neurotic, coward, stupid, etc.)	4	49.81	.0001
7. Brings up the past.	4	34.24	.0001
8. Uses sarcasm.	3	49.85	.0001
9. Checks to be sure he/she correctly understands the other person's feelings about the disagreement.	4	31.00	.0001
10. Respects right of other person to disagree.	4	38.47	.0001
11. Tries to avoid talking about it.	4	12.70	.01
12. Tries to convince the other person why his viewpoint is wrong.	4	5.93	N.S.
13. Tells the other person off.	4	49.34	.0001
14. Considers disagreements as games of wits and tries to outmaneuver the other person.	4	25.34	.0001
15. Tries to identify exactly what the problem is, what are the feelings of each person about the problem, and the different ways of solving the problem.	4	25.39	.0001

Perceptions Concerning Degree
of Conflict With Parents

As shown in Table III, the three frequencies of conflict which had the highest rate of response were more than twice a week but not as often as once a day (22.07%), once a week (15.49%) and less than once a month (15.02%). The least frequently mentioned was twice a week (7.04%).

TABLE III
PERCEPTIONS CONCERNING DEGREE OF CONFLICT WITH PARENTS

Frequency of conflict	No.	%
Once a day	18	8.45
More than once a day	21	9.86
Once a week	33	15.49
Twice a week	15	7.04
More than twice a week but not as often as once a day	47	22.07
Twice a month	23	10.80
Once a month	24	11.27
Less than once a month	32	15.02

Perceptions Concerning Whether
Conflict With Parents Increased
When Respondents Reached Adolescence

Of the 216 respondents, 169 (78.97%) stated that conflict did increase when they reached adolescence. Forty-five respondents (21.03%) stated that conflict with their parents did not increase when they reached adolescence.

Perceptions Concerning Between
Whom Conflict Increased When
Respondent Reached Adolescence

As shown in Table IV, the respondents stated that conflict increased between mother and adolescent (42.35%) more frequently than between both parents and adolescent (32.94%) and that conflict increased between both parents and adolescent more frequently than between father and adolescent (24.71%).

TABLE IV
 PERCEPTIONS CONCERNING BETWEEN WHOM CONFLICT INCREASED
 WHEN RESPONDENT REACHED ADOLESCENCE

Persons between whom conflict increased	No.	%
Mother and adolescent	72	42.35
Father and adolescent	42	24.71
Both Parents and adolescent	56	32.94

Perceptions Concerning Why Conflict
With Parents Increased When Respon-
dent Reached Adolescence

As shown in Table V, the three most frequently mentioned reasons for an increase in conflict when the respondent reached adolescence were adolescent's independence in activities (15.56%), freedom-independence (11.85%) and age and changes of adolescence (10.37%). The four least frequently mentioned reasons were lack of trust (2.22%), other (2.22%), lack of communication (2.96%) and concern of parents for adolescent's welfare (2.96%).

Perceptions Concerning Why Conflict
With Parents Did Not Increase When
Respondent Reached Adolescence

The greatest proportion of respondents (37.50%) stated that a positive, supportive parent-adolescent relationship was the reason for their conflicts with parents not increasing when the respondent reached adolescence. Table VI also shows that situations discussed by parents and adolescent was least frequently (12.50%) stated by the respondents as the reason for their parent-adolescent conflicts not increasing.

Perceptions Concerning Who Are Most
Often Involved in Conflicts With Parents

Table VII illustrates that mother and adolescent was most frequently (53.05%) indicated as being most often involved in conflicts while father and adolescent was indicated approximately one-half (28.17%) as

often as mother and adolescent. The respondents stated that both parents and adolescent were least frequently (18.78%) involved in conflicts.

TABLE V
PERCEPTIONS CONCERNING WHY CONFLICT WITH PARENTS
INCREASED WHEN RESPONDENT REACHED ADOLESCENCE

Why conflict increased	No.	%
1. Freedom-Independence	16	11.85
2. Parental Expression of hostility	5	3.70
3. Lack of trust	3	2.22
4. Unrealistic expectations	8	5.92
5. Lack of communication	4	2.96
6. Personal difficulties of adolescent	6	4.44
7. Rebellion	5	3.70
8. Adolescent not home enough	5	3.70
9. Adolescent's independence in activities	21	15.56
10. Lack of understanding	7	5.19
11. Age and changes of adolescence	14	10.37
12. Friends	8	5.93
13. Personality	5	3.70
14. Different opinions	11	8.15
15. Concern of parents for adolescent's welfare	4	2.96
16. Other	3	2.22
17. "I don't know"	10	7.41

TABLE VI

PERCEPTIONS CONCERNING WHY CONFLICT WITH PARENTS DID NOT
INCREASE WHEN RESPONDENT REACHED ADOLESCENCE

Why conflict did not increase	No.	%
Situations discussed by parents and adolescent	2	12.50
Positive, supportive parent-adolescent relationship	6	37.50
Fewer arguments and disagreement	4	25.00
Other	4	25.00

TABLE VII

PERCEPTIONS CONCERNING WHO ARE MOST OFTEN
INVOLVED IN CONFLICTS WITH PARENTS

Persons most often involved in conflicts	No.	%
Mother and adolescent	113	53.05
Father and adolescent	60	28.17
Both parents and adolescent	40	18.78

Perceptions Concerning With Whom

Adolescent Has Most Serious Conflicts

Mother and adolescent was most frequently (49.06%) indicated to be

the ones involved in the most serious parent-adolescent conflicts.

Table VIII also shows that the respondents reported that father and adolescent and both parents and adolescent were less frequently (36.32% and 14.62% respectively) involved in the most serious conflicts.

TABLE VIII
PERCEPTIONS CONCERNING WITH WHOM ADOLESCENT
HAS MOST SERIOUS CONFLICTS

Persons involved in most serious conflicts	No.	%
Mother and adolescent	104	49.06
Father and adolescent	77	36.32
Both parents and adolescent	31	14.62

Perceptions Concerning Areas In
Which Adolescent Most Frequently
Experiences Conflict With Parents

The respondents stated activities of adolescent (8.97%), adolescent responsibilities (8.52%) and places adolescent goes (8.07%) most frequently as areas of most conflict. The four least frequently mentioned areas of most conflict included work (1.79%), fairness of parents (2.24%), talking back (2.24%) and adolescent's attitude (2.24%) as is shown in Table IX.

TABLE IX
PERCEPTIONS CONCERNING AREAS IN WHICH ADOLESCENT MOST
FREQUENTLY EXPERIENCES CONFLICT WITH PARENTS

Areas of conflict	No.	%
1. Relationships with person of opposite sex	16	7.17
2. Drugs	6	2.69
3. Activities of adolescent	20	8.97
4. Not being home enough	12	5.38
5. Places adolescent goes	18	8.07
6. Curfews	13	5.83
7. Conflict concerning siblings	9	4.04
8. Fairness of parents	5	2.24
9. Personal conduct of adolescent	11	4.93
10. Talking back	5	2.24
11. Adolescent's attitude	5	2.24
12. Adolescent responsibilities	19	8.52
13. Work	4	1.79
14. Friends	13	5.83
15. School	10	4.48
16. Car and money	12	5.38
17. Adolescent's freedom and rights	12	5.38
18. Values	9	4.04
19. Other	8	3.59
20. Broad answers (everything, anything, etc.)	16	7.17

Perceptions Concerning Basic Reasons

For Conflicts With Parents

The largest proportion (24.65%) of respondents indicated that adolescent's striving for independence from parents was the basic reason for their parent-adolescent conflicts. Lack of understanding by adolescent and/or parents (23.59%) was the second largest proportion. The least percentage (5.99%) of respondents stated reasons other than those provided in the question. As Table X illustrates, the least percentage (11.97%) of respondents perceiving the basic reason for conflict to be one of those provided indicated personality conflicts.

TABLE X

PERCEPTIONS CONCERNING BASIC REASONS FOR CONFLICTS WITH PARENTS

Basic reasons for conflicts	No.	%
1. Personality conflicts	34	11.97
2. Adolescent's striving for independence from parents	70	24.65
3. Lack of communication between adolescent and parents	49	17.25
4. Lack of understanding by adolescent and/or parents	67	23.59
5. Adolescent and parents raised in different environments	46	16.20
6. Other	17	5.99

Perceptions Concerning Who Usually
"Gets Their Way" During Conflicts
With Parents

The greatest proportion of the respondents (88.78%) reported that those who usually "get their way" during conflicts were the parents about half the time and adolescent about half the time (48.13%) and parents (40.65%). As shown in Table XI, the remaining 11.21% of the respondents indicated no one (4.67%), adolescent (3.27%) and everyone (3.27%) as being the persons who usually "get their way".

TABLE XI

PERCEPTIONS CONCERNING WHO USUALLY "GETS THEIR WAY"
 DURING CONFLICTS WITH PARENTS

Person who "gets their way"	No.	%
Parents	87	40.65
Adolescent	7	3.27
Parents about half the time and adolescent about half the time	103	48.13
Everyone	7	3.27
No one	10	4.67

Perceptions Concerning How Satisfactorily
Conflicts With Parents Are Resolved

Table XII shows that the greatest percentage (46.48%) of the respondents stated that conflicts with their parents were satisfactorily resolved. The second greatest percentage (22.54%) of respondents, which is approximately one-half of the most frequent response (satisfactorily) indicated that their conflicts were unsatisfactorily resolved. Very unsatisfactorily (5.16%) and very satisfactorily (8.45%) were least frequently indicated.

TABLE XII
 PERCEPTIONS CONCERNING HOW SATISFACTORILY
 CONFLICTS WITH PARENTS ARE RESOLVED

Satisfaction with conflict resolution	No.	%
Very satisfactorily	18	8.45
Satisfactorily	99	46.48
Undecided	37	17.37
Unsatisfactorily	48	22.54
Very Unsatisfactorily	11	5.16

Perceptions Concerning Who Experiences the
Most Guilt After Conflict With Parents

Approximately one-half of the respondents indicated that everyone experienced guilt about the same (45.77%). One-third of the respondents stated that the adolescent (33.33%) experienced the most guilt after parent-adolescent conflict. As is illustrated by Table XIII, approximately 20% of the respondents stated that mother (13.43%) and father (7.46%) experienced the most guilt.

TABLE XIII
PERCEPTIONS CONCERNING WHO EXPERIENCES THE MOST
GUILT AFTER CONFLICT WITH PARENTS

Person who experiences the most guilt after conflict	No.	%
Mother	27	13.43
Father	15	7.46
Adolescent	67	33.33
Everyone about the same	92	45.77

Examination of Hypotheses

The chi-square test was used to examine the hypothesis that there is no significant relationship between the perceptions of adolescents concerning the frequency of conflicts with parents and each of the following: (a) sex of adolescent; (b) age of adolescent; (c) living

arrangements of adolescent; (d) degree of adolescent satisfaction with the parent-adolescent relationship; and (e) adolescent's perceived family strength.

Hypothesis I (a): There is no significant relationship between the perceptions of adolescents concerning the frequency of conflicts with parents and sex of adolescent.

The chi-square test indicated that a significant relationship existed between perceptions of frequency of conflict with parents and sex of respondent. As Table XIV illustrates, a chi-square value of 17.40 was obtained indicating a significant relationship at the .02 level. Approximately 8 times more females (17.48%) than males (2.73%) reported having conflict with their parents more than once a day. The other major relationship was that almost twice as many males (20%) as females (10.68%) reported having conflict with their parents once a week.

Hypothesis I (b): There is no significant relationship between the perceptions of adolescents concerning the frequency of conflicts with parents and age of adolescent.

The chi-square test indicated that no significant relationship existed between perceptions of frequency of conflict and age of respondent.

Hypothesis I (c): There is no significant relationship between the perceptions of adolescents concerning the frequency of conflicts with parents and living arrangements of adolescent.

The chi-square test indicated that no significant relationship existed between perceptions of frequency of conflict and living arrangements

of respondent.

TABLE XIV

CHI-SQUARE VALUE REFLECTING DIFFERENCE IN PERCEPTIONS OF ADOLESCENTS
CONCERNING FREQUENCY OF CONFLICTS WITH PARENTS ACCORDING TO SEX

Frequency of conflict	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>		χ^2	Level of Sig.
	No.	%	No.	%		
Once a day	7	6.36	11	10.68		
More than once a day	3	2.73	18	17.48		
Once a week	22	20.00	11	10.68		
Twice a week	8	7.27	7	6.80		
More than twice a week but not as often as once a day	24	21.82	23	22.33	17.40	.02
Twice a month	14	12.73	9	8.74		
Once a month	14	12.73	10	9.71		
Less than once a month	18	16.36	14	13.59		

Hypothesis I (d): There is no significant relationship between the perceptions of adolescents concerning the frequency of conflicts with parents and degree of adolescent satisfaction with the parent-adolescent relationship.

The chi-square test indicated that a significant relationship existed between perceptions of frequency of conflict with parents and degree of adolescent satisfaction with the parent-adolescent relationship. As shown in Table XV, a chi-square value of 64.34 was obtained indicating a significant relationship at the .0001 level. Approximately 17 times more respondents who were very unsatisfied with their parent-adolescent relationship (50%) than those who were satisfied with their relationship (3.03%) reported conflict more than once a day. Similarly 8 times more respondents who were very unsatisfied with their parent-adolescent relationship (25%) than those who were very satisfied with their relationship (3.77%) reported conflict once a day. No respondent who was unsatisfied or very unsatisfied with their parent-adolescent relationship reported conflict less than once a month.

Hypothesis I (e): There is no significant relationship between the perceptions of adolescents concerning the frequency of conflicts with parents and adolescent's perceived family strength.

The chi-square test indicated that a significant relationship existed between perceptions of frequency of conflict with parents and respondent's perceived family strength. As Table XVI illustrates, a chi-square value of 59.79 was obtained indicating a significant relationship at the .0004 level. Approximately 10 times more respondents who perceived their family as having a below average degree of strength (20%) than those who perceived their family as having the greatest degree of strength (2.27%) reported conflict once a day. Also, approximately 8 times more respondents who perceived their family as having the greatest degree of strength (31.82%) than those who perceived their

family as having an average degree of strength (4.84%) reported conflict less than once a month.

The chi-square test was used to examine the hypothesis that there is no significant relationship between the perceptions of adolescents concerning severity of conflict and each of the following: (a) sex of adolescent; (b) age of adolescent; (c) living arrangements of the adolescent; (d) degree of adolescent satisfaction with the parent-adolescent relationship; and (e) adolescent's perceived family strength.

Hypothesis II (a): There is no significant relationship between the perceptions of adolescents concerning severity of conflict and sex of adolescent.

The chi-square test indicated that no significant relationship existed between perceptions of severity of conflict and sex of respondent.

Hypothesis II (b): There is no significant relationship between the perceptions of adolescents concerning severity of conflict and age of adolescent.

The chi-square test indicated that no significant relationship existed between perceptions of severity of conflict and age of respondent.

Hypothesis II (c): There is no significant relationship between the perceptions of adolescents concerning severity of conflict and living arrangements of adolescent.

TABLE XV

CHI-SQUARE VALUE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTIONS OF ADOLESCENTS CONCERNING FREQUENCY
OF CONFLICTS WITH PARENTS ACCORDING TO DEGREE OF ADOLESCENT SATISFACTION
WITH THE PARENT-ADOLESCENT RELATIONSHIP*

Frequency of conflict	VS		S		U		US		VUS		X ² Level of Sig.
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Once a day	2	3.77	6	6.06	4	11.43	5	26.32	1	25.00	
More than once a day	3	5.66	3	3.03	6	17.14	7	36.84	2	50.00	
Once a week	12	22.64	17	17.17	4	11.43	0	0.00	0	0.00	
Twice a week	3	5.66	8	8.08	4	11.43	0	0.00	0	0.00	
More than twice a week but not as of- ten as once a day	7	13.21	25	25.25	8	22.86	5	26.32	1	25.00	64.34 .0001
Twice a month	5	9.43	13	13.13	3	8.57	1	5.26	0	0.00	
Once a month	6	11.32	14	14.14	3	8.57	1	5.26	0	0.00	
Less than once a month	15	28.30	13	13.13	3	8.57	0	0.00	0	0.00	

*Due to the small number of cases the categories, Unsatisfactory and Very Unsatisfactory were combined and the chi-square test yielded the same conclusion.

TABLE XVI

CHI-SQUARE VALUE REFLECTING DIFFERENCE IN PERCEPTIONS OF ADOLESCENTS CONCERNING FREQUENCY
OF CONFLICT WITH PARENTS ACCORDING TO ADOLESCENT'S PERCEIVED FAMILY STRENGTH*

Frequency of conflict	<u>Least Degree</u>		<u>Below Average</u>		<u>Average</u>		<u>Above Average</u>		<u>Greatest Degree</u>		X ²	Level of Sig.
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
Once a day	0	0.00	4	20.00	9	14.52	4	5.13	1	2.27		
More than once a day	0	0.00	5	25.00	7	11.29	4	5.13	2	4.55		
Once a week	1	25.00	3	15.00	4	6.45	13	16.67	11	25.00		
Twice a week	0	0.00	1	5.00	6	9.68	7	8.96	1	2.27		
More than twice a week but not as of- ten as once a day	1	25.00	5	25.00	19	30.65	18	23.08	4	9.09	59.79	.0004
Twice a month	0	0.00	2	10.00	8	12.90	9	11.54	3	6.82		
Once a month	2	50.00	0	0.00	6	9.68	8	10.26	8	18.18		
Less than once a month	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	4.84	15	19.23	14	31.82		

*Due to the small number of cases the categories, Least Degree and Below Average were combined and the chi-square test yielded the same conclusion.

The chi-square test indicated that no significant relationship existed between perceptions of severity of conflict and living arrangements of respondent.

Hypothesis II (d): There is no significant relationship between the perceptions of adolescents concerning severity of conflict and degree of adolescent satisfaction with the parent-adolescent relationship.

The chi-square test indicated that a significant relationship existed between perceptions of severity of conflict and the degree of adolescent satisfaction with the parent-adolescent relationship. As Table XVII illustrates, a chi-square value of 55.69 was obtained indicating a significant relationship at the .0001 level. Thirty-three times more respondents who were very unsatisfied with their parent-adolescent relationship (33.33%) than those who were satisfied with their parent-adolescent relationship (1.01%) reported their conflicts to be very serious. Approximately 10 times more respondents who were very satisfied with their parent-adolescent relationship (53.85%) than those who were unsatisfied with their parent-adolescent relationship (5.56%) reported their conflicts to be not serious. No respondent who was very unsatisfied with their parent-adolescent relationship reported conflict to be not serious.

Hypothesis II (e): There is no significant relationship between the perceptions of adolescents concerning severity of conflict and adolescent's perceived family strength.

The chi-square test indicated that no significant relationship

existed between perceptions of severity of conflict and adolescent's perceived family strength.

The chi-square test was used to examine the hypothesis that there is no significant relationship between the perceptions of adolescents concerning degree of satisfaction to which parent-adolescent conflicts are resolved and each of the following: (a) sex of adolescent; (b) age of adolescent; (c) living arrangements of adolescent; (d) degree of adolescent satisfaction with the parent-adolescent relationship; and (e) adolescent's perceived family strength.

Hypothesis III (a): There is no significant relationship between the perceptions of adolescents concerning degree of satisfaction to which parent-adolescent conflicts are resolved and sex of adolescent.

The chi-square test indicated that no significant relationship existed between perceptions of adolescents concerning degree of satisfaction to which parent-adolescent conflicts were resolved and sex of adolescent.

Hypothesis III (b): There is no significant relationship between the perceptions of adolescents concerning degree of satisfaction to which parent-adolescent conflicts are resolved and age of adolescent.

The chi-square test indicated that no significant relationship existed between perceptions of adolescents concerning degree of satisfaction to which parent-adolescent conflicts were resolved and age of adolescent.

TABLE XVII

CHI-SQUARE VALUE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTIONS OF ADOLESCENTS CONCERNING SEVERITY OF CONFLICT
ACCORDING TO DEGREE OF ADOLESCENT SATISFACTION WITH THE PARENT-ADOLESCENT RELATIONSHIP*

Severity of conflict	VS		S		U		US		VUS		X ²	Level of Sig.
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
Not Serious	28	53.85	33	33.33	7	21.21	1	5.56	0	0.00	55.69	.0001
Less Than Serious	14	26.92	48	48.48	11	33.33	6	33.33	0	0.00		
Serious	3	5.77	13	13.13	9	27.27	4	22.22	1	33.33		
More Than Serious	7	13.46	4	4.04	4	12.12	5	27.78	1	33.33		
Very Serious	0	0.00	1	1.01	2	6.06	2	11.11	1	33.33		

*Due to the small number of cases the categories, Unsatisfactory and Very Unsatisfactory were combined and the chi-square test yielded the same conclusion.

Hypothesis III (c): There is no significant relationship between the perceptions of adolescents concerning degree of satisfaction to which parent-adolescent conflicts are resolved and living arrangements of adolescent.

The chi-square test indicated that no significant relationship existed between perceptions of adolescents concerning degree of satisfaction to which parent-adolescent conflicts were resolved and living arrangements of adolescent.

Hypothesis III (d): There is no significant relationship between the perceptions of adolescents concerning degree of satisfaction to which parent-adolescent conflicts are resolved and degree of adolescent satisfaction with the parent-adolescent relationship.

The chi-square test indicated that a significant relationship existed between perceptions of adolescents concerning degree of satisfaction to which parent-adolescent conflicts were resolved and the degree of adolescent satisfaction with the parent-adolescent relationship. As Table XVIII illustrates, a chi-square value of 86.61 was obtained indicating a significant relationship at the .0001 level. Approximately 16 times more respondents who were very unsatisfied with their parent-adolescent relationship (50%) than each of those who were satisfied (3.03%) and very satisfied (3.85%) with their relationship reported very unsatisfactory resolution of their conflicts. Approximately 12 times more respondents who were very satisfied (25%) with their parent-adolescent relationship than those who were undecided (2.70%) about their satisfaction with the parent-adolescent relationship reported very

satisfactory resolution of their conflicts. No one who was unsatisfied or very unsatisfied with their parent-adolescent relationship reported very satisfactory resolution of conflict. Similarly, 10 times more respondents who indicated unsatisfactory (50%) and 10 times more respondents who indicated very unsatisfactory (50%) relationships with their parents than those who indicated a very satisfactory (5.77%) parent-adolescent relationship reported unsatisfactory resolution of conflict.

Hypothesis III (e): There is no significant relationship between the perceptions of adolescents concerning degree of satisfaction to which parent-adolescent conflicts are resolved and adolescent's perceived family strength.

The chi-square test indicated that a significant relationship existed between perceptions of adolescents concerning degree of satisfaction to which parent-adolescent conflicts were resolved and the respondent's perceived family strength. As Table XIX illustrates, a chi-square value of 32.84 was obtained indicating a significant relationship at the .008 level. Approximately seven times more respondents who perceived family strength to be below average (15%) than those who perceived family strength to be above average (2.53%) reported very unsatisfactory resolution of conflicts. Also, six times more respondents who perceived family strength to be at the greatest degree (18.6%) than those who perceived family strength to be average (3.13%) reported very satisfactory resolution of conflicts. No one who perceived family strength to be below average or at the least degree reported very satisfactory resolution of conflicts.

TABLE XVIII

CHI-SQUARE VALUE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTIONS OF ADOLESCENTS CONCERNING DEGREE OF SATISFACTION TO WHICH PARENT-ADOLESCENT CONFLICTS ARE RESOLVED ACCORDING TO DEGREE OF ADOLESCENT SATISFACTION WITH THE PARENT-ADOLESCENT RELATIONSHIP *

Degree of satisfaction to which parent-adolescent conflicts are resolved	VS		S		U		US		VUS		χ^2	Level of Sig.
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
Very Satisfactorily	13	25.00	4	4.04	1	2.70	0	0.00	0	0.00	86.61	.0001
Satisfactorily	31	59.62	57	57.58	6	16.22	4	22.22	0	0.00		
Undecided	3	5.77	19	19.19	11	29.73	4	22.22	0	0.00		
Unsatisfactorily	3	5.77	16	16.16	16	43.24	9	50.00	2	50.00		
Very Unsatisfactorily	2	3.85	3	3.03	3	8.11	1	5.56	2	50.00		

*Due to the small number of cases the categories, Unsatisfactory and Very Unsatisfactory were combined and the chi-square test yielded the same conclusion.

TABLE XIX

CHI-SQUARE VALUE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTIONS OF ADOLESCENTS CONCERNING DEGREE OF SATISFACTION TO WHICH PARENT-ADOLESCENT CONFLICTS ARE RESOLVED ACCORDING TO DEGREE OF ADOLESCENT SATISFACTION WITH THE PARENT-ADOLESCENT RELATIONSHIP *

Degree of satisfaction to which parent-adolescent conflicts are resolved	VS		S		U		US		VUS		X ²	Level of Sig.
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
Very Satisfactorily	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	3.13	8	10.13	8	18.60	32.84	.0078
Satisfactorily	1	25.00	2	10.00	31	48.44	43	54.43	21	48.84		
Undecided	1	25.00	6	30.00	12	18.75	13	16.46	5	11.63		
Unsatisfactorily	2	50.00	9	45.00	15	23.44	13	16.46	7	16.28		
Very Unsatisfactorily	0	0.00	3	15.00	4	6.25	2	2.53	2	4.65		

*Due to the small number of cases the categories, Very Satisfactory and Satisfactory were combined and the the X² test yielded the same conclusion.

The one-way classification analysis of variance was used to examine the hypothesis that there is no significant relationship between Pattern of Conflict Scale scores (based on average scores of the adolescent and his/her parents) and each of the following: (a) sex of adolescent; (b) age of adolescent; (c) degree of adolescent satisfaction with the parent-adolescent relationship; and (d) adolescent's preceived family strength.

Hypothesis IV (a): There is no significant relationship between Pattern of Conflict Scale scores and sex of adolescent.

The one-way classification analysis of variance indicated that a significant relationship existed between Pattern of Conflict Scale scores and sex of respondent. As Table XX illustrates, an F score of 5.28 was obtained indicating a significant relationship at the .02 level. Female respondents expressed a higher mean (50.50) Pattern of Conflict Scale score (reflecting the most positive patterns of dealing with conflict) than male respondents whose expressed mean Pattern of Conflict Scale score was 48.07 (reflecting the least positive patterns of dealing with conflict).

Hypothesis IV (b): There is no significant relationship between Pattern of Conflict Scale scores and age of adolescent.

The one-way classification analysis of variance indicated that no significant relationship existed between Pattern of Conflict Scale scores and the age of respondent.

TABLE XX

F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PATTERN OF CONFLICT SCALE SCORES
ACCORDING TO SEX OF ADOLESCENT

Variable	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Sex</u>				
Male	99	48.07	5.28	.02
Female	97	50.50		

Hypothesis IV (c): There is no significant relationship between Pattern of Conflict Scale scores and degree of adolescent satisfaction with the parent-adolescent relationship.

The one-way classification analysis of variance indicated that a significant relationship existed between Pattern of Conflict Scale scores and degree of adolescent satisfaction with the parent-adolescent relationship. As Table XXI illustrates, an F score of 16.29 was obtained indicating a significant relationship at the .0001 level. Those respondents who reported very satisfactory parent-adolescent relationships expressed the highest mean (53.32) Pattern of Conflict Scale score (reflecting the most positive patterns of dealing with conflict). Those respondents who reported very unsatisfactory parent-adolescent expressed the lowest mean (36.10) Pattern of Conflict Scale score (reflecting the least positive patterns of dealing with conflict).

TABLE XXI

F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PATTERN OF CONFLICT SCALE SCORES
ACCORDING TO DEGREE OF ADOLESCENT SATISFACTION WITH THE PARENT-
ADOLESCENT RELATIONSHIP

Variable	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Degree of adolescent satisfaction with the parent-adolescent relationship</u>				
Very Satisfactory	48	53.32		
Satisfactory	94	50.27		
Undecided	31	45.98	16.29	.0001
Unsatisfactory	17	41.40		
Very Unsatisfactory	3	36.10		

Hypothesis IV (d): There is no significant relationship between Pattern of Conflict Scale Scores and adolescent's perceived family strength.

The one-way classification analysis of variance indicated that a significant relationship existed between Pattern of Conflict Scale scores and adolescent's perceived family strength. As Table XXII illustrates, an F score of 12.16 was obtained indicating a significant relationship at the .0001 level. Those respondents who reported the greatest degree of family strength expressed the highest mean (54.24) Pattern of Conflict Scale score. Those respondents who reported a

below average degree of family strength expressed the lowest mean
(42.72) Pattern of Conflict Scale score.

TABLE XXII

F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PATTERN OF CONFLICT SCALE SCORES
ACCORDING TO ADOLESCENT'S PERCEIVED FAMILY STRENGTH

Variable	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Adolescent's perceived family strength</u>				
Least Strength	3	48.13		
Below Average	18	42.72		
Average	57	46.84	12.16	.0001
Above Average	72	50.29		
Greatest Strength	41	54.24		

The one-way classification analysis of variance was used to examine the hypothesis that there is no significant relationship between perceptions of severity of conflict and Pattern of Conflict Scale scores.

Hypothesis V: There is no significant relationship between perceptions of severity of conflict and Pattern of Conflict Scale scores.

The one-way classification analysis of variance indicated that a

significant relationship existed between Pattern of Conflict Scale scores and respondents' perceptions of severity of conflict with parents. As Table XXIII illustrates, an F score of 4.16 was obtained indicating a significant difference at the .003 level. Those respondents who reported that conflict with their parents was not serious expressed the highest mean Pattern of Conflict Scale score (reflecting the most positive patterns of dealing with conflict). Those respondents who reported that conflict with their parents was very serious expressed the lowest mean Pattern of Conflict Scale score (reflecting the least positive patterns of dealing with conflict).

TABLE XXIII

F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PATTERN OF CONFLICT SCALE SCORES
ACCORDING TO SEVERITY OF CONFLICT

Variable	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Severity of Conflict</u>				
Not Serious	65	51.63		
Less Than Serious	76	49.29		
Serious	24	46.66	4.16	.0034
More Than Serious	20	48.14		
Very Serious	5	41.30		

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY

The purpose of this study was to develop an instrument for measuring perceptions of adolescents concerning their parent-adolescent conflict and to compare adolescents' perceptions in relation to various factors.

The sample was composed of 216 students enrolled in grades nine through twelve in the Guthrie Public Schools, Guthrie, Oklahoma. The subjects' ages ranged from 13 to 19 years with approximately half being 14 and 15 years. They lived primarily with both of their natural (biological) parents. The questionnaire was distributed to the subjects at school in December, 1976.

Percentages and frequencies were used to analyze the respondents' perceptions of parent-adolescent conflict. The chi-square test was utilized to examine the null hypotheses that there is no significant relationship between perceptions of adolescents concerning frequency of conflicts with parents, severity of conflict and degree of satisfaction to which parent-adolescent conflicts are resolved and each of the following: (a) sex of adolescent; (b) age of adolescent; (c) living arrangements of adolescent; (d) degree of adolescent satisfaction with the parent-adolescent relationship; and (e) adolescent's perceived family strength. Also, the chi-square test was used to do an item analysis of the Pattern of Conflict Scale items to determine those items

which significantly differentiated among the subjects scoring in the upper quartile, middle half and lower quartile.

The one-way classification analysis of variance was used to examine the hypotheses that (1) there is no significant relationship between Pattern of Conflict Scale scores and each of the following: (a) sex of adolescent; (b) age of adolescent; (c) degree of adolescent satisfaction with the parent-adolescent relationship; and (d) adolescent's perceived family strength, and (2) there is no significant relationship between perceptions of severity of conflict and Pattern of Conflict Scale scores.

The split-half reliability coefficient was used to test the reliability of the Pattern of Conflict Scale items.

Discussion and Conclusions

The finding that the majority (78.97%) of respondents thought conflict did increase when they reached adolescence is in agreement with the traditional view of adolescence as a period of turmoil and contradicts the opinion held by Bandura and Walters (1964) that adolescence is not a period of "storm and stress".

The three most frequently mentioned reasons for an increase in conflict when the respondent reached adolescence were adolescent independence in activities (15.56%), freedom-independence (11.85%) and age and changes of adolescence (10.37%) and the three areas of most frequent conflict were activities of adolescent (8.97%), adolescent responsibilities (8.52%) and places adolescent goes (8.07%). These findings indicate that there is an increased need for independence at adolescence and that this period of development has its own peculiar

characteristics and developmental tasks. This is supported by Havighurst and Taba (cited in McArthur, 1962) who list "achieving emotional independence from parents" (p. 189) as one developmental task of the adolescent. Further support is found in the study by Thurnher, Spence and Lowenthal (1974) in which reasons for conflict centered around authority and independence.

The finding that the major reason why conflict with parents did not increase when the respondent reached adolescence was a positive, supportive parent-adolescent relationship is interesting in that it coincides with another finding in this study that the degree of adolescent satisfaction with the parent-adolescent relationship is significantly related to adolescents' perceptions of conflict. This is, the less satisfied the adolescent is with the parent-adolescent relationship, the less favorable are the adolescent's perceptions of conflict. The finding that a positive, supportive parent-adolescent relationship was the major reason for no increase in conflict at adolescence may be explained by the view that, because of the nature of the relationship, those involved will work at resolving conflicts and maintaining harmony in order to continue the positive, supportive relationship.

The findings that mother and adolescent are more frequently involved in parent-adolescent conflicts, the increased conflicts at adolescence and the most serious conflicts experienced are supported by Skorupska's (1958) study in which it was found that conflicts occur most frequently with the mother or both parents simultaneously. The mother's role in which, traditionally, she was the principle source of guidance, discipline and care for the children may explain these findings. According to Parsons (1955) the mother's function in the family system is

expressive which concerns "the 'internal' affairs of the system" (p. 47). Coser (1964, p. 378) believes that the clear distinction between the functions of mother and father have become blurred in our industrialized society. The modern middle-class mother has assumed some of the obligations of the father but has not necessarily given up her obligations of maintaining the "internal system". The modern mother is still concerned with the behavioral and attitudinal development of the children and their integration into the community. She holds a position of control over the children that is greater than that of the father. Therefore, more conflict between the mother and children can be expected.

The findings show that the majority of respondents indicated that there are two basic reasons for conflict: (1) adolescent's striving for independence from parents (24.65%), supported by Havighurst and Taba (cited in McArthur, 1962) and Thurnher, Spence and Lowenthal (1974), and (2) lack of understanding by adolescent and/or parents (23.59%). Supportive of the second most frequently indicated reason is Freeman (1967) who holds the view that parents and adults do not understand adolescents because they do not perceive adolescent problems in the same way as adolescents do. Similarly, adolescents do not understand parents because they do not perceive parental problems in the same way as parents. The data, however, does not indicate the frequency of lack of understanding by parents and by adolescents and only a general statement that parents and adolescents do not understand each other because of their not perceiving the other's problems similarly can be made.

The findings that the majority of respondents reported that those

who usually "get their way" during conflicts are the parents about half the time and the adolescent about half the time (48.13%) and that every-one experiences guilt about the same (45.77%) seems to indicate that almost half of the respondents think that they share equally these two aspects of conflict with their parents. Interestingly, however, the respondents indicated that they infrequently (3.27%) "get their way" in contrast to parents (40.65%) and that they experience more guilt (33.33%) than parents (mother, 13.43%, and father, 7.46%). These findings may be explained by Meissner (1965) who stated that adolescents' needs affect their perceptions of home and parents. Thus, if adolescents are experiencing a need for more independence, then failure to "get their way" in disagreements may be perceived as seldom "getting their way". Likewise, if adolescents are experiencing a need for approval from parents, then conflicts with the parents may produce guilt feelings of failure to obtain parental approval.

The findings that more females (17.48%) than males (2.73%) reported conflict with parents more than once a day and that more males (20.00%) than females (10.68%) reported conflict with their parents once a week indicates that, although both males and females experience frequent conflicts with their parents, females experience more conflict. Support is found in the studies by Kinloch (1970) and Cecetka (1967) who found that female adolescents experienced more conflict with parents than male adolescents. A second finding in which a significant difference between sexes is present is that females expressed a higher mean (50.50) Pattern of Conflict Scale score than males (48.07). The fact that the Pattern of Conflict Scale score has many items which emphasize verbal and communication skills in dealing with conflicts may explain

this difference. Haring (1967) found that females are freer in their communication with others than males. This would seem to indicate that the female adolescents use verbal communication in dealing with parent-adolescent conflicts more frequently than males. Thus, a higher Pattern of Conflict Scale score is achieved by females.

The findings that degree of adolescent satisfaction with the parent-adolescent relationship is significantly related to perceptions of adolescents concerning frequency of conflicts, severity of conflict, degree of satisfaction to which parent-adolescent conflicts are resolved and Pattern of Conflict Scale scores indicate a positive relationship between satisfaction with the parent-adolescent relationship and conflict perceptions. Thus, the more satisfied the adolescent is with the parent-adolescent relationship, the more favorable were the adolescent's perceptions of conflict (less frequency, less severity, greater satisfaction with conflict resolution and more positive patterns of dealing with conflict). It seems that the favorableness of conflict perceptions is influenced by emotionally meaningful factors rather than such things as sources of conflict and frequency of conflict. Supportive of this are the findings of Bath and Lewis (1962) which suggested that the source of conflict between parents and adolescents may be the emotional parent-adolescent relationship "involving such things as acceptance, rejection, and overprotection" (p. 252).

The findings that adolescent's perceived family strength is related to perceptions concerning frequency of conflicts, degree of satisfaction to which parent-adolescent conflicts are resolved, and Pattern of Conflict Scale scores indicate a positive relationship between perceived family strength and adolescent's perceptions of conflict. That is, the

greater strength the adolescent perceives the family to have, the more favorable are the adolescent's perceptions of conflict (less frequency, greater satisfaction with conflict resolution and more positive patterns of dealing with conflict). According to Otto (1963, 1966), affective and emotionally meaningful factors such as understanding and exchange of love between parents and children, sensitivity to family members' needs, provision of support, encouragement and security, and respect for family members' individuality are sources of family strength. Therefore, it seems that such emotionally meaningful factors have more influence on the degree of favorableness of conflict perceptions than factual aspects (frequency of conflict and what the conflicts are about).

The findings that adolescent's perceptions of severity of conflict is significantly related to Pattern of Conflict Scale scores indicates that the more positive the patterns of dealing with conflict that the family uses, the less serious their conflicts are perceived to be. Similar to the previously discussed finding that the degree of adolescent satisfaction with the parent-adolescent relationship is significantly related to the perceptions of adolescents concerning severity of conflict, emotional factors seem to be involved in the relationship between conflict severity perceptions and Pattern of Conflict Scale scores. Skorupska (1958) found that conflicts evoke strong and lasting emotions which are generally unpleasant and result in feelings of being wronged and of guilt. Therefore, it seems that negative patterns of dealing with conflict used by the family produce unpleasant feelings in the adolescent which result in the adolescent's perceptions of severe conflict.

The major conclusions of this study are:

- (1) The degree of adolescent satisfaction with the parent-adolescent relationship is directly related to adolescent perceptions of conflicts with parents;
- (2) The adolescent's perceived family strength is directly related to adolescent perceptions of their conflicts with parents; and
- (3) Patterns of dealing with conflict are directly related to perceptions of conflict severity.

Recommendations and Implications

It is recommended that further investigation into some of the findings and conclusions of this study be made. Studies into the nature of the relationships between the degree of adolescent satisfaction with the parent-adolescent relationship and the adolescent's perceptions of conflict would be productive. Do unfavorable perceptions result in a breakdown and dissatisfaction in the parent-adolescent relationship? Does the parent-adolescent relationship cause unfavorable conflict perceptions? Or, is the relationship between degree of satisfaction with the parent-adolescent relationship and conflict perceptions in fact a cause-effect relationship?

Further studies into the concept of family strength and its relationship to conflict perceptions are needed. Do families which experience conflict frequently and resolve it to the satisfaction of its members perceive themselves as being strong while those in which frequent conflicts are not resolved satisfactorily for its members perceive themselves as being less strong? Is there a cause-effect relationship between perceptions of family strength and conflict perceptions?

Studies comparing parental and adolescent perceptions could be fruitful. Are there significant differences in parental and adolescent perceptions of conflict? If so, how are these differences related to conflict perceptions, parent-adolescent relationships and family strength?

The major conclusions hold several implications for family life educators and person dealing with families in the helping professions. These are becoming aware of and educating persons about the relationships between satisfaction with the parent-adolescent relationship and adolescent's perceived family strength and perceptions of conflict and teaching positive patterns of dealing with conflict to lead to improvement in parent-adolescent relationships.

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APPENDIX

Your cooperation in this research project is greatly appreciated. Your contribution in a research project of this type helps us to gain greater knowledge and insight into family relationships. Participation is strictly voluntary and you do not have to fill out the questionnaire if you do not want to.

Please check or fill in answers as appropriate to each question. If you have no opinion, write "No opinion" in place of the answer. Since you do not have to put your name on the questionnaire, your answers are confidential and anonymous. Please be as honest in your answers as possible. There are no right or wrong answers. Answer the questions in relation to you and your parents.

The blanks at the extreme left of the page are for coding purposes (do not fill in).

_____ 1 - 3.

_____ 4. Sex: _____ 1. male _____ 2. female

_____ 5. What is your age? _____

_____ 6. Grade: _____ 1. Freshman _____ 3. Junior
 _____ 2. Sophomore _____ 4. Senior

_____ 7. I am living with:

_____ 1. my natural (biological) parents	_____ 4. my adoptive parents
_____ 2. my natural (biological) parent only (no spouse present in home)	_____ 5. Other (specify) _____ _____
_____ 3. one natural (biological) parent and one step parent	

_____ 8. Have you ever had conflict with your parents?

_____ 1. Yes _____ 2. No

_____ 9. On the average, how often do you have conflicts with your parents?

_____ 1. once a day	_____ 6. twice a month
_____ 2. more than once a day	_____ 7. once a month
_____ 3. once a week	_____ 8. less than once a month
_____ 4. twice a week	
_____ 5. more than twice a week but not as often as once a day	

_____ 10. Did conflict with your parents increase when you reached adolescence?

_____ 1. Yes _____ 2. No

- ___ 11. If so, between whom did the conflict increase?
- ___ 1. Your mother and you ___ 3. Both parents and you
 ___ 2. Your father and you
- ___ 12. Why do you think it increased or did not increase?
- ___ 13. Who are most often involved in your conflicts?
- ___ 1. Your mother and you ___ 3. Both of your par-
 ___ 2. Your father and you ents and you
- ___ 14. On the following scale, circle the number at the point which you think most closely represents the degree of seriousness of your conflicts with your parents.
- 1 2 3 4 5
 not serious serious very serious
- ___ 15. Between whom do your most serious conflicts occur?
- ___ 1. Your mother and you ___ 3. Both of your par-
 ___ 2. Your father and you ents and you
- ___ 16. About what do you most often have conflict with your parents?
- ___ 17. What is the basic reason for conflicts with your parents?
- ___ 1. Personality conflicts
 ___ 2. Your striving for independence from your parents
 ___ 3. Lack of communication between you and your parents
 ___ 4. Lack of understanding by you and/or your parents
 ___ 5. You and your parents raised in different environments
 ___ 6. Others (specify) _____
- ___ 18. Who usually starts your conflicts?
- ___ 1. Your mother and father together ___ 3. Your mother
 ___ 2. You ___ 4. Your father
- ___ 19. Who takes sides with whom during your conflicts?
- ___ 1. Your mother sides with you against your father
 ___ 2. Your father sides with you against your mother
 ___ 3. Your parents side together against you
 ___ 4. No taking of sides occurs

Answer questions 20-23 by circling the appropriate number on the scale below each question.

20. How often do you think your parents listen to your viewpoint during a conflict?

1 2 3 4 5
never about half always
the time

- ____ 21. How often do you listen to your parents' viewpoint during a conflict?

1 2 3 4 5
never about half always
the time

22. How often do you think your parents try to understand your viewpoint during a conflict?

1 2 3 4 5
never about half always
the time

23. How often do you try to understand your parents' viewpoint during a conflict?

1 2 3 4 5
never about half always
the time

24. Who usually "gets their way" during your conflicts?

- _____ 1. Your parents _____ 4. Everyone
_____ 2. You _____ 5. No one
_____ 3. Your parents about half
the time and you about
half the time

25. How are your conflicts with your parents generally resolved?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <u> </u> 1. Very satisfactorily | <u> </u> 4. Unsatisfactorily |
| <u> </u> 2. Satisfactorily | <u> </u> 5. Very Unsatisfac- |
| <u> </u> 3. Undecided | <u> </u> torily |

26. Who do you think feels the most guilt after a conflict?

- _____ 1. Your mother _____ 3. You
_____ 2. Your father _____ 4. Everyone about the same

- ___ 27. Indicate how strong you feel your family is by circling the appropriate number on the following 5 point scale (1 represents the least degree of family strength and 5 represents the greatest degree of family strength).

1 2 3 4 5

- ___ 28. In relation to decision-making, which of the following do you think more nearly describes your family?

- ___ 1. Authoritarian - parents make all the decisions
 ___ 2. Democratic - parents and you make decisions jointly
 ___ 3. Permissive - your parents have less influence than you

- ___ 29. In general, how would you classify your relationship with your parents?

- ___ 1. Very satisfactory ___ 4. Unsatisfactory
 ___ 2. Satisfactory ___ 5. Very unsatisfactory
 ___ 3. Undecided

- ___ 30. By circling the appropriate number, indicate how often your Mother, Father and You respond to conflict situations in each of the following ways.

- 1 = Hardly Ever
 2 = Sometimes
 3 = About Half the Time
 4 = Often
 5 = Very Often

	Mother	Father	You
___ Is specific when introducing a gripe.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
___ Mainly complains.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
___ Sticks to one issue at a time.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
___ Is intolerant.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
___ Is willing to compromise.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
___ Calls others names (such as neurotic, coward, stupid, etc.).	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
___ Brings up the past.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
___ Uses sarcasm.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5

	Mother	Father	You
_____ Checks to be sure he/she correctly understands the other person's feelings about the disagreement.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
_____ Respects right of other person to disagree.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
_____ Tries to avoid talking about it.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
_____ Tries to convince the other person why his viewpoint is wrong.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
_____ Tells the other person off.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
_____ Considers disagreements as games of wits and tries to outmaneuver the other person.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
_____ Tries to identify exactly what the problem is, what are the feelings of each person about the problem, and the different ways of solving the problem.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5

Please go back and see if you have answered each question.

VITA

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Master of Science

Thesis: PERCEPTIONS OF PARENT-ADOLESCENT CONFLICT

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