

# Adolescence and Adulthood

Cognitive Development



# Piagetian Cognitive Development: Formal Operations

- Capacity for abstract thought
- Increased verbal problem-solving ability
- Metacognition – thinking about thinking
- Thoughts of idealism and possibilities
- Hypothetical-deductive reasoning
  - Creating a hypothesis and deducing its implications

# Evaluating Piaget's Theory

- Many late adolescents and adults (around 1/3) are incapable of abstract thought
- Fails to capture the role or context of the situation

