As a teacher, I have seen as my main goal enabling students to experience the adventure, and hard-won harvest, of disciplined, creative thought that goes beyond any one discipline. To be sure transmitting knowledge is also important, but today's knowledge is sure to be surpassed by tomorrow's. Thus, the greatest gift one can give to the young is to enable them to deal critically and creatively with new answers, and the new questions, that the future brings.
Proposition I
Especially in its early phases, but also throughout the life course, human development takes place through processes of progressively more complex, reciprocal interaction between an active, evolving biopsychological human organism and the persons, objects, and symbols in its immediate external environment. [proximal processes]

![Graph showing the effect of mother’s responsiveness on problem behavior of child at age 4 by birthweight and social class.]

Figure 14.1 Effect of mother’s responsiveness on problem behavior of child at age 4 by birthweight and social class.

Proposition II
The form, power, content, and direction of the proximal processes effecting development vary systematically as a joint function of the characteristics of the developing person: of the environment—both immediate and more remote—in which the processes are taking place: the nature of the developmental outcomes under consideration: and the social continuities and changes occurring over time...