



Existentialism

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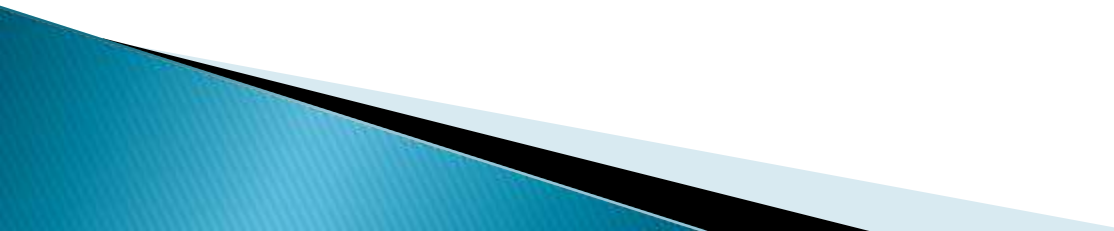
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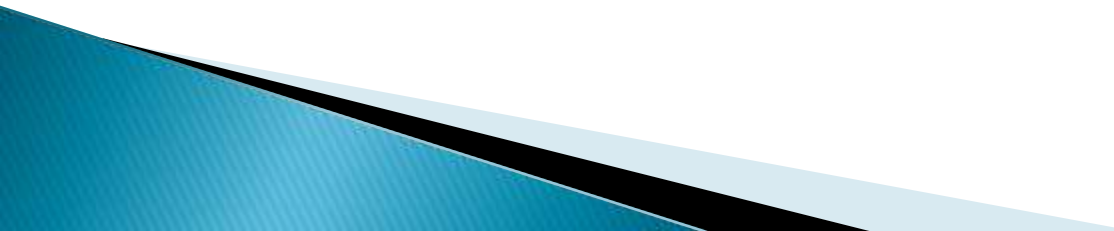
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Defination

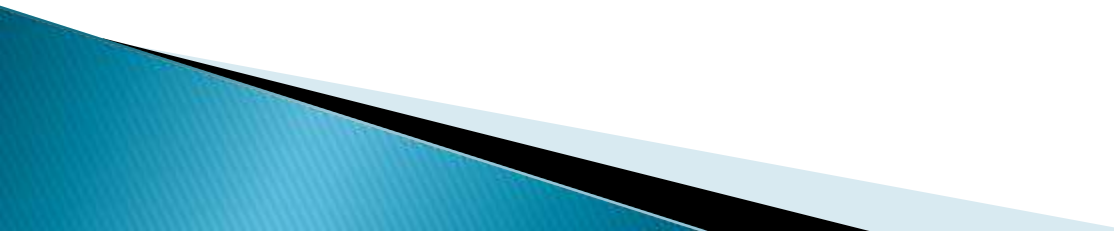
- ▶ A philosophy that emphasizes the uniqueness and isolation of a individual experience in a hostile and or indifferent universe, regards human existence as unexplainable, freedom of choice and responsibility for the consequences of one's act.
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History

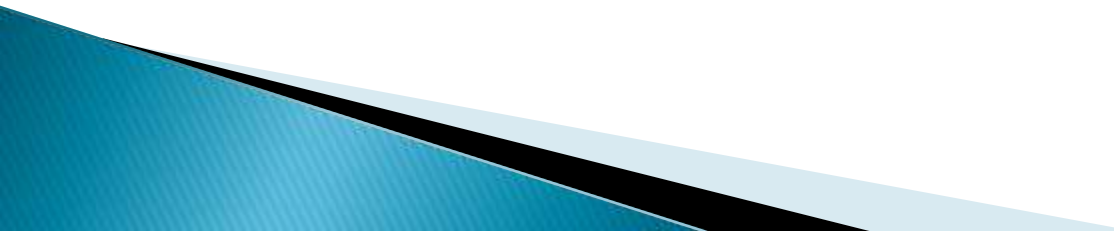
- ▶ Existentialism became popular in 2nd World War years as a way for humans to reassert the importance of individuality and freedom.
 - ▶ Became a well known philosophical and cultural movement from 1930's-1970's.
 - ▶ Existential themes have been discussed throughout philosophy and literature:
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Existentialists

Soren Kierkegaard

- ▶ Viewed as Father of Existentialism
 - ▶ Felt individual was responsible for giving life meaning and living that life passionately
 - ▶ Focused on subjective experiences of humans rather than the objective truths provided by math and science
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Jean-Paul Sartre

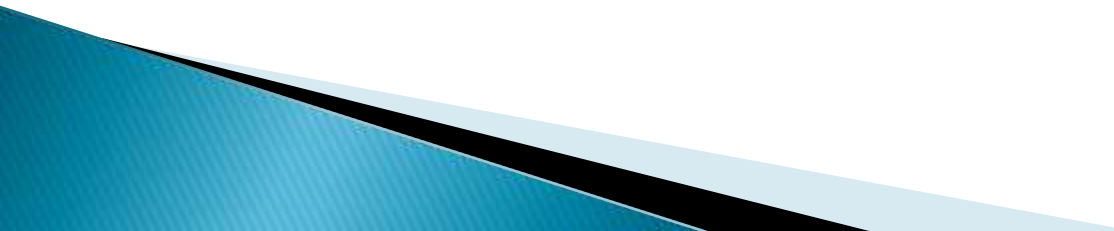
- ▶ In 1945 adopted Existential term to describe his philosophy
 - ▶ Major concept of his philosophy was freedom and responsibility
 - ▶ Man first of all exists, encounters himself, surges up in the world and defines himself afterward.
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Karl Jaspers

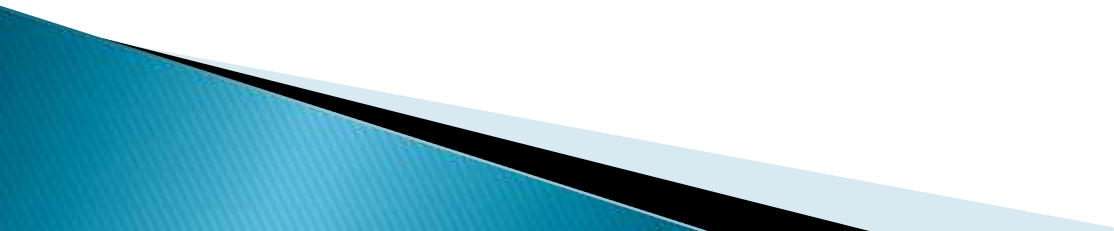
- ▶ Existence philosophy is the way of thought by means of which a man seeks to become himself.

Conditions

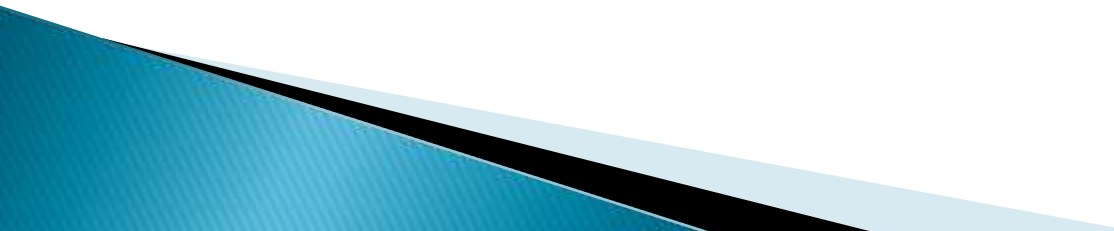
Focuses on conditions of human existence:

- ▶ Emotions
 - ▶ Actions
 - ▶ Responsibilities
 - ▶ Thoughts
 - ▶ Meaning or purpose of life
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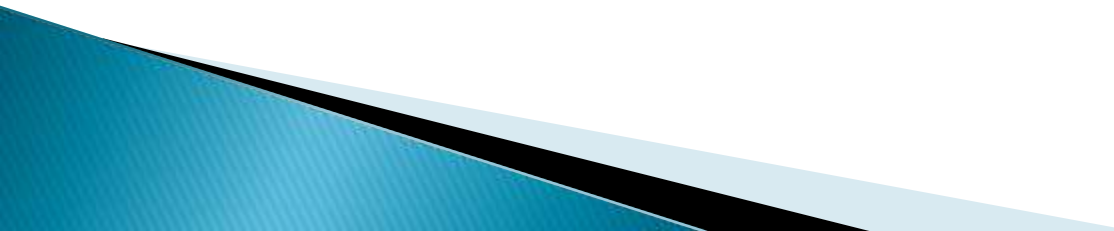
Beliefs of Existentialists

- ▶ Human beings create their own values through choice. These values help them create a meaning for their life. Their identity is defined by actions and their responsibility for those actions.
 - ▶ Humans have freedom, but with that freedom comes the responsibility we have to make choices. Each choice can lead to a success or a failure.
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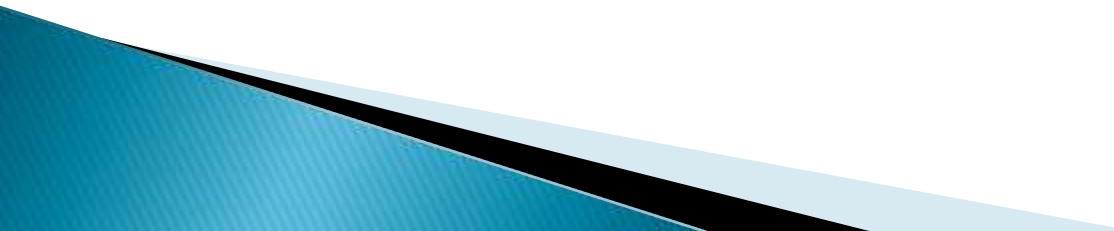
Beliefs of Existentialists

- ▶ Humans take a “leap of faith” that no matter the outcome, success or failure, they will make it.
 - ▶ We live in sorrow. We have no one to blame for our choices but ourselves. This responsibility can lead to dread and anxiety over choosing.
 - ▶ If you choose not to make a choice, you are not living authentically.
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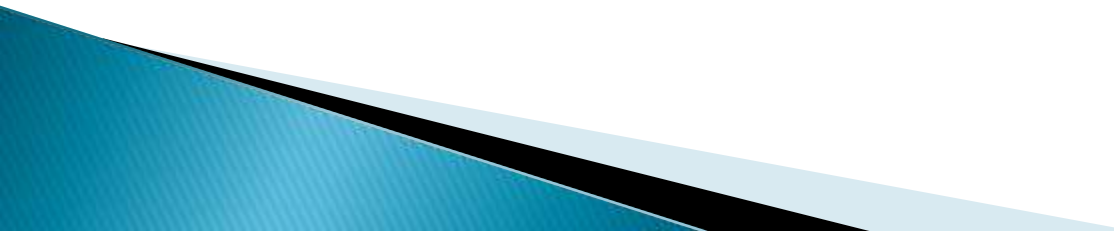
Beliefs of Existentialists

- ▶ A limitation and condition of our freedom is our facticity. Our past consists of things one can't choose (birthplace, parents, etc.) and we depend on values we develop in our past. We are a part of our past, present and future self. Not one self lives independently.
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Existentialism Philosophy in Education

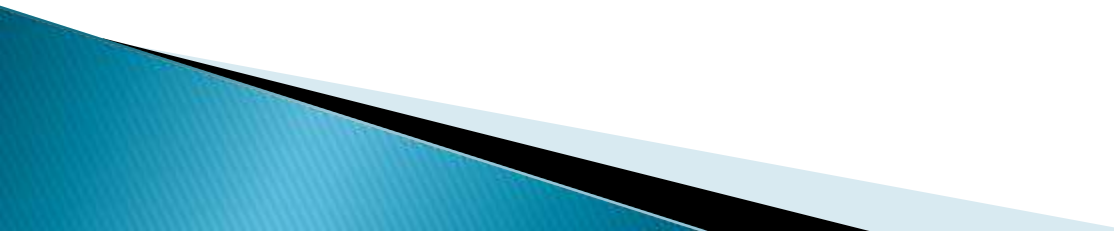
- ▶ Educational philosophy would fit most likely in the period it was created-Post World War. Today's education is too focused on accountability.
 - ▶ Teacher must facilitate choices for students.
 - ▶ Let the child take the first step and the teacher guide the next.
 - ▶ Teachers prepare students for success and failure.
 - ▶ When schools give children the freedom to make choices they are helping the child develop their identity and authentic self.
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Rules within philosophy

- ▶ Student has freedom to make choices within their education. They are ultimately responsible for those choices.
 - ▶ Teacher, administrators and school work to facilitate, guide and accept the student's choices.
The consequences, good or bad, must be taught to student.
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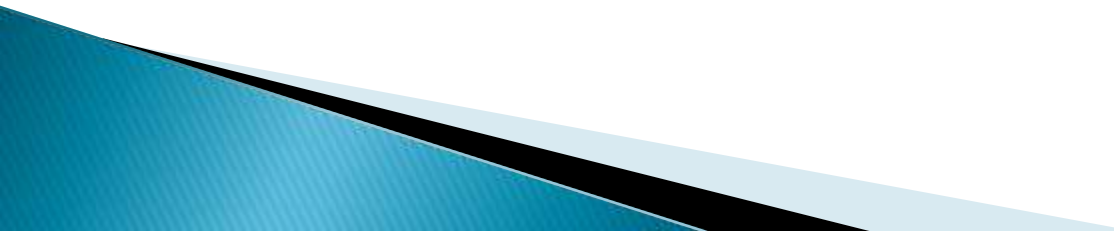
Curriculum

The Existential curriculum would be one of experience:

- ▶ Those experiences set up by the school for the purpose of disciplining students and youth in group ways of thinking and acting.
 - ▶ Series of things that children and youth must do and experience.
 - ▶ All the experiences children have under the guidance of teachers.
 - ▶ A goal or set of values that is activated through a development process and culminates in classroom experiences for students.
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Existentialism in the Academic Content Standards

Effective social studies integrates history, geography, economics, political science, other social sciences and humanities in order to prepare students to be participating citizens. Specifically, social studies.

- ▶ Helps students develop the ability to make informed and reasoned decisions for themselves and the common good.
 - ▶ Prepares students for their role as citizens and decision makers in a diverse, democratic society.
 - ▶ Fosters students ability to act responsibly and become successful problem solvers in an interdependent world of limited resources.
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References

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