

What is Personality?

- Personality
 - an individual's characteristic pattern of thinking, feeling, and acting
 - basic perspectives
 - Psychoanalytic
 - Humanistic

The Psychoanalytic Perspective



- From Freud's theory which proposes that childhood sexuality and unconscious motivations influence personality

The Psychoanalytic Perspective

- Psychoanalysis
 - Freud's theory of personality that attributes our thoughts and actions to unconscious motives and conflicts
 - techniques used in treating psychological disorders by seeking to expose and interpret unconscious tensions

The Psychoanalytic Perspective

- Free Association
 - in psychoanalysis, a method of exploring the unconscious
 - person relaxes and says whatever comes to mind, no matter how trivial or embarrassing

The Psychoanalytic Perspective

- Unconscious
 - according to Freud, a reservoir of mostly unacceptable thoughts, wishes, feelings and memories
 - contemporary viewpoint- information processing of which we are unaware

Personality Structure

- **Id**
 - contains a reservoir of unconscious psychic energy
 - strives to satisfy basic sexual and aggressive drives
 - operates on the pleasure principle, demanding immediate gratification

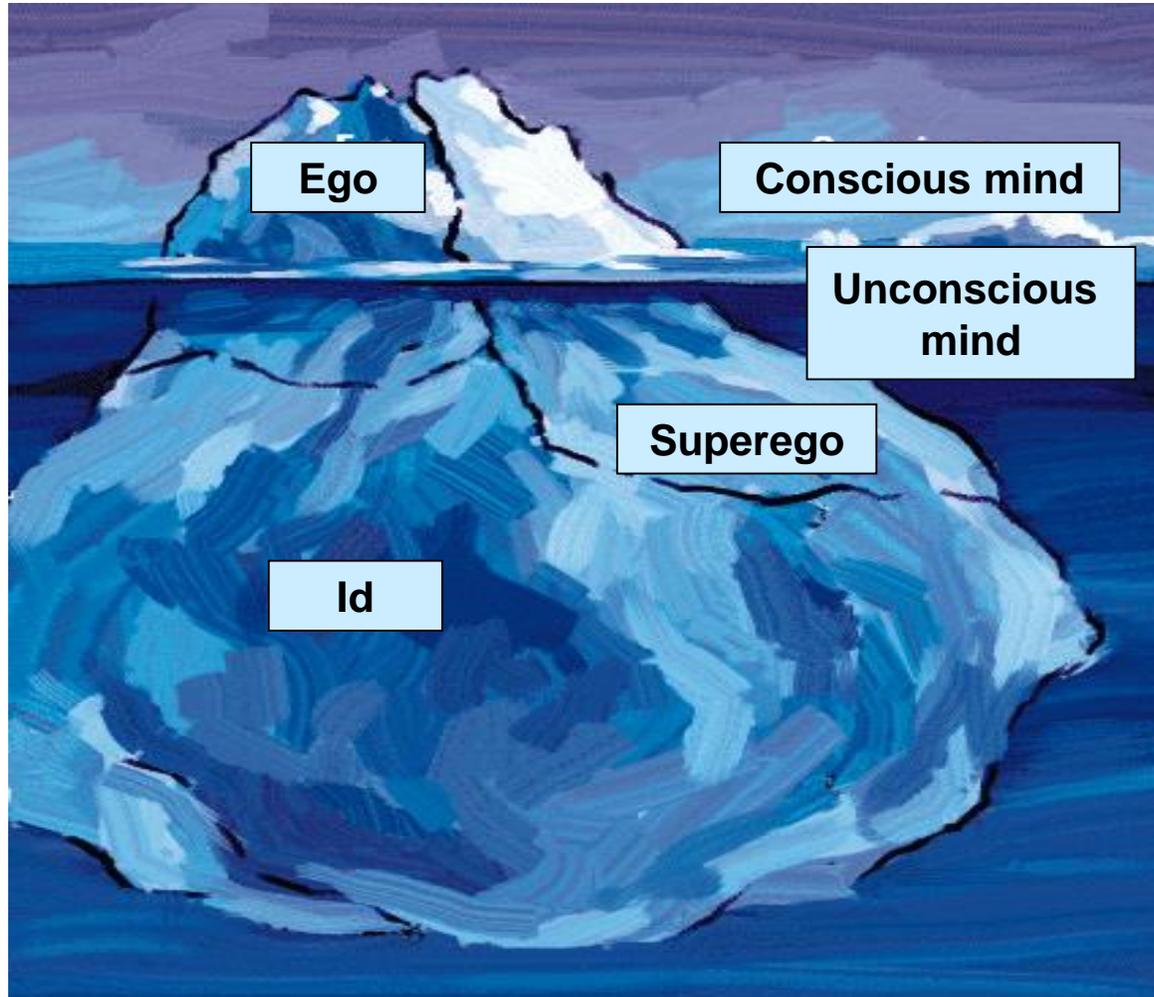
Personality Structure

- **Superego**
 - the part of personality that presents internalized ideals
 - provides standards for judgement (the conscience) and for future aspirations

Personality Structure

- Ego
 - the largely conscious, “executive” part of personality
 - mediates among the demands of the id, superego, and reality
 - operates on the reality principle, satisfying the id’s desires in ways that will realistically bring pleasure rather than pain

Personality Structure



- Freud's idea of the mind's structure

Oral Stage

- z 0-18 months
- z Pleasure centers on mouth
 - y Sucking, biting, chewing
- z If you don't successfully pass through this stage as an infant, you might develop an oral fixation as an adult!



Anal Stage

- z 18-36 months
- z Pleasure focuses on bladder and bowel elimination
- z If you don't pass through this stage as a child, you might develop a demand for control as an adult - being "anal"!

Phallic Stage

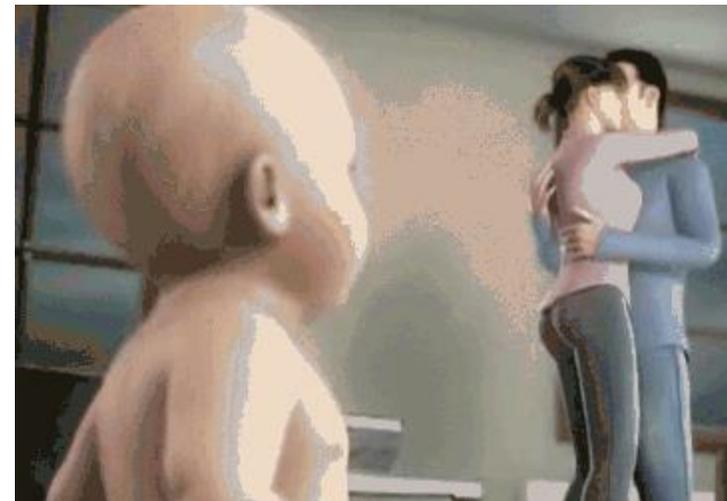
- z 3-6 years
- z Pleasure zone is the genitals
- z Freud claimed the Oedipus and Electra Complexes occurred in this stage
 - y Wanted to kill your same sex parent and sleep with your opposite sex parent!
- z Boys feared castration
- z Eventually, identification with same sex parent occurs

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"It's just a case of mind over mater, Mr. Thrimble."



Latency Stage

- z 6- puberty
- z Dormant sexual feelings
- z Nothing going on here!



Genital Stage

- z Puberty on
- z Maturation of sexual interests
- z Start becoming interested in other people

Personality Development

- Identification
 - the process by which children incorporate their parents' values into their developing superegos
- Oedipus Complex
 - a boy's sexual desires toward his mother and feelings of jealousy and hatred for the rival father