

AP Psychology Serial Killer Project

Objective: The purpose of this project is to apply what you have learned this year about psychology to explore one of the most bizarre and intriguing phenomena in human behavior, the serial killer. You will choose and research a serial killer from around the world and attempt to explain and analyze their behavior.

Step One: Choose a serial killer from the list at the link below. You may choose an unsolved case if you wish. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_serial_killers_by_country

Step Two: Write a **3-page** research paper that examines the history of the cases, background and profile of the suspect/killer, and analysis of them using two of the approaches to psychology (psychoanalytical, biological, humanistic, cognitive, behavioral, cross-cultural, or biopsychosocial). Paper should be organized into the following sections and **must include a reference page and in-text citations according to MLA format. Papers turned in without proper citations and a works cited page will receive a score of "0"**.

- I. General Background of Serial Killers (history, prevalence, commonalities, theories)
- II. Background of Your Serial Killer (case histories, *modus operandi*, profile, etc.)
- III. Detailed Psychological Profile Using Two Approaches to Psychology (include any additional factors that could be involved)
- IV. Conclusion

Step Three: Create a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the information from your research paper. The presentation should contain a minimum of 5 slides with information (slides with pictures only will not count) and a maximum of 10 slides.

Points: Research Paper—100 pts Presentation—50 pts

Timeline:

May 19/20: Project Assigned

May 21/22: Research Day

May 23/27: Research/Work Day

May 29/30: Research/Work Day

June 2/3: Presentations and Papers Due

June 4/5: Additional Presentations if Necessary

Weblinks:

[Criminal Psychology from the Crime Library](#)

[Serial killers: death and life in ... - Google Books](#)

[The Psychology of Serial and Mass Killers - Introduction](#)

[Psychology of Serial Killers](#)

[Predestined Serial Killers | Serendipitous Exchange](#)

[Serial Killers Top 7 Myths](#)