

Abnormal Psychology Project

This semester I have presented you with some foundational information to help you understand how to define abnormal behavior, and mental disorders. We've talked about the DSM-5, the manual where these disorders are classified into categories to allow mental health professionals and researchers to describe disorders, predict outcomes, consider treatments, and encourage research into their etiology, or the causes of these disorders.

Now it is time for you to take some of the knowledge you have learned and apply it. You are to creatively come up with a unique way of discussing your disorder of choice. Please see instructions below with my approval.

Description Learning Goals: Demonstrate a thorough understanding of a psychological disorder. Develop a product that accurately and thoroughly describes the impact of the psychological disorder, its diagnosis, its prognosis, and its treatment. Work to create the most polished product possible to clearly detail the importance of understanding abnormal psychology and your chosen topic of study.

Project Guidelines: Students have the freedom to choose the form of the final product with Instructor approval. The product must fulfill the requirements listed below. The Instructor will approve all proposals before work begins.

Suggested products: A Brochure, a public service announcement, a newsletter, social media/a multimedia presentation (PowerPoint). These are just suggestions, choose to be creative.

Requirements: Address all the following elements in your project.

1. Definition of abnormal psychology
2. Definition of your chosen disorder
3. How it is diagnosed according to the DSM-5 (Google)
4. Signs and symptoms
5. Statistics regarding the disorder
6. Information regarding the prognosis
7. Any genetic, or biological risk, cultural factors
8. Treatment options
9. Support for those affected
10. References/sources

Select a Disorder:

1. A Mood Disorder (Major Depression, Dysthymia, bipolar, substance - induced mood disorder, suicide)
2. Schizophrenia or any of the Psychotic Disorders
3. Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence (ADHD, conduct disorder, Oppositional Defiant, Autism, Learning Disorders)
4. Eating Disorders and Obesity
5. Panic, Anxiety, Obsession and Their Disorders (Panic Disorder, Social phobia, Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, Anxiety Disorder, Agoraphobia)
6. Stress and Physical and Mental Health (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder)
7. Substance-Related Disorders (Alcohol, Drugs)
8. Sexual Variants, Abuse and Dysfunctions (sexual dysfunction disorders, gender dysphoria, Several different Paraphilic Disorders, Sexual Abuse, Erectile Dysfunction etc.)

Further Instructions: Please email me (angela.hugie@benedict.edu) in E360 to let me know what your topic of choice is by this **Thursday, September 10th** so that you can get approval and begin putting your project together.

This final project will conclude our time together and will be due by the last day of class, no later than **Thursday, September 17th by 8:30PM.** There will be a dropbox labeled *Abnormal Psychology Project for you to submit your work.*

This project will be worth 100 points. Your final grade will be affected if not submitted on-time. Reach out to me if you have any specific instructions about this project.

Ms. Hugie

Abnormal Psychology Learning Project Rubric

100-89 = The student conveys the depth of the disorder under consideration, with a well-crafted explanation. Through detailed explanations, examples, and original ideas, the author can thoroughly address the disorder. The author acknowledges the complexity of the topic, narrowing the focus in such a way as to clarify for the audience, yet maintaining an appropriate tone to hold the audience's interest. The final product flows smoothly, with no gaps in explanation, nor any excessive explanation to hinder interest. Sources are credible, relevant, and accurate.

89-80 = The student crafts a thorough project centered around an interesting and thoughtful explanation of the disorder. Details, examples, and supporting concepts are logically and smoothly embedded throughout the project. The audience's interest is held throughout the piece, and the carefully constructed conclusion ties it all together. Relevant and credible sources add to the message.

79-70 = The student is lacking details that allow the audience to fully grasp the disorder. Some necessary details and examples are omitted. The organizational pattern may be mechanical and/or incomplete. The audience is left with lingering questions. Sources are limited and/or less than reliable or credible.

69 - Below = The student fails to sustain an extended explanation of the disorder. Details and examples are lacking. The author uses common ideas, rather than developing his/her specific vision of what the disorder entails. The

author is unable to support his/her explanation. Sources are not properly utilized. The project is incomplete.