

1. Positive symptoms refers to the excess of emotions thoughts or behaviors in a person. For example, a person might be exhibiting delusions or an order of thinking that feels chaotic or disorganized. Individuals with positive symptoms could have a heightened perceptions or hallucinations. When considering who might be diagnosed with schizophrenia it is important to look at the duration of the symptoms as well as the symptoms themselves. For example, in order to be diagnosed with schizophrenia one must be exhibiting a form of delusions, hallucinations, or disorganized speech for up to 6 months or more. Where as brief psychotic disorder, on the spectrum of schizophrenia disorders, is marked by only being experienced for a month or less. There is said to be a correlation between those in low socio economic standing and those who experience schizophrenia, but it is a chicken or the egg debate about whether poverty exacerbates symptoms of schizophrenia or if those who experience schizophrenia fall into a lower income bracket because their symptoms make it difficult to gain any kind of economic capital. Delusions are identified as ideas that the individual believes to be fully true, more of a fact than an idea. These delusions are usually dominating and governing to the individuals life. Sometimes through delusions of reference or grandeur. Delusions of control believe themselves to be governed or controlled by other people. People who are experiencing disorganized thinking and speech are not able to communicate logically and often experience great deals of confusion. They believe their scattered word choice make logical sense, when in reality there is an incoherent jumping from one thought to another, or misplaced words to formulate sentences. Heightened perceptions and hallucinations are also a positive symptom where the intensity of perceptions and attention are turned up significantly. This interferes with memory and accurate perception. Hallucinations are false perception of external stimuli. People might hear voices or experience sights that are not present in the moment. Hallucinations and delusional thinking may coincide with one another. The final positive

symptom of schizophrenia is inappropriate affect. Inappropriate affect is when emotions that are not the appropriate response to the given situation surface. For example something that should make someone sad makes them happy, or an inappropriate shift in mood. It is possible that the reason someone may laugh, even though it should seem they should be responding with sadness, is because the individual could be responding to one of the other positive symptoms, a type of hallucination could be causing additional input that draws out a contrasting emotion.