

### Brief Introduction

This topic is appealing to me since I have always been interested in the psychology of the mind and its related fields. By delving deeper into this topic and this worldwide research issue, I will learn more about the biological perspective of mental illnesses, particularly psychopathy, rather than just the psychological. Moreover, this topic is of great interest to the entire world since it is developing research with no definite answer yet to have been discovered. Hence, I want to look at the issue from my perspective and read more about it to actively speak about it with others as it is not well known outside the world of psychiatry and its related fields. Having read a respectable number of articles about this controversial worldwide dispute, I believe that psychopathy results from the combination of biological and environmental factors.

I chose this topic specifically instead of others to expand my knowledge and to increase my awareness of certain negligible environmental behaviors that could be triggering the activation of specific genes that are owned by victims of psychopathy, a neuropsychiatric disorder characterized by a deficit of emotional responses and a variety of other dysfunctional behaviors. I read multiple articles about it from PsycNet.com and watched various documentaries and YouTube videos about this topic. Therefore, I feel confident that I will not fall short in credible sources. However, I am worried about losing my way through to lead up to my main argument that environmental and biological factors are crucial factors in influencing the susceptibility of the onset of psychopathy. This is attributed to the fact that extensive research was conducted on the effect of both sides together and alone on the onset of the illness. Hence, I would love to hear an outside opinion occasionally, if my paper is organized and delivered well, as a writer may fall into the trap of egocentrism due to the extensive knowledge that they have acquired about a topic during a brief period of time.

**Commented [PMM1]:** Me too!

**Commented [PMM2]:** Hopefully this will be somewhat addressed in the next assignment

**Commented [PMM3]:** "The curse of knowledge" – we deal with that in Ch 13 and 14 ... you should take a look now ... students always rate those chapters best and always tell me we should have done them earlier .... It's difficult to do them earlier! BUT ... you could! 😊

## References

Farrington, D. P., Ullrich, S., & Salekin, R. T. (2010). Environmental influences on child and adolescent psychopathy. In R. T. Salekin & D. R. Lynam (Eds.), *Handbook of Child and Adolescent Psychopathy*, 202-230. The Guildford Press.

<https://psycnet.apa.org/record/2010-17970-009>

This chapter from the Handbook of Child and Adolescent Psychopathy mentions the various definitions of psychopathy that have been proposed by multiple authors and researchers in the field. It includes studies and reviews and presents new findings on environmental predictors of psychopathy. It is considered credible because it is found on APA PsycNet and written by renowned psychology and psychiatry researchers with several publications. This chapter will help in the introduction of the paper since it is an excellent source to extract the definition and explanation of psychopathy from.

Frazier, A., Ferreira, P. A., & Gonzales, J. E. (2019). Born this way? A review of neurobiological and environmental evidence for the etiology of psychopathy.

*Personality Neuroscience*, 2(e8), 1-16. <https://doi.org/10.1017/pen.2019.7>

This journal article presents the genetic and neurobiological differences to explain their influence on the onset of psychopathy and its severity. It aims to collect and consider etiological evidence from extensive research studies on neurobiological differences and genetic factors in psychopathy. Moreover, it ~~also~~ sets its sights on evaluating findings from other relevant biological structures to strengthen its argument. It is a credible article written by researchers and professors in the field with multiple other relevant publications and achievements. This article will help

me when I mention the biological and genetic influences on psychopathy and its severity.

Blair, R. J. R., (2013). Psychopathy: Cognitive and neural dysfunction. *Dialogues in clinical neuroscience*, 15(2), 181-90. <https://doi.org/10.31887/DCNS.2013.15.2/rblair>

This study evaluates evidence from individuals with psychopathy concerning the main cognitive explanations of the condition that emphasize either a primary attention or emotion deficit. Furthermore, it analyzes evidence on the neurology of this illness. It is considered a credible journal article written by a member of the center for neurobehavioral research. ~~He~~The author also has a high publications index which adds to his reliability and expertise. This article will assist in one of my points about psychopathy's relation to other disorders, and it will help me dive deeper into psychopathy's neurology.

### **Planning**

I am enrolled in five courses, Operations Research (INE222), Calculus 3 (MTH203), Materials Science (MCE230), Statics and Dynamics (MCE224), and Advanced Academic Writing (ENG204), this semester. Hence, to balance between all the courses and give each of the courses my maximal potential I set a potential plan for my semester, below:

**Week 4:** During the weekend before week 4 (if everything goes as planned) I have my plane ticket to the UAE so I will be settling in through the week. Hence, I will not have a lot of extra time to work on subjects without submissions. However, I know if I fell short, I will regret it later so I will be working on collecting sources and evidence and outlining my proposal during the breaks I have before every ENG204 class and after my MTH203 class every MW. I will also read ch10-12 during these breaks. On the other days, I will constantly be revising after my lectures, so I do not cram up material. Moreover, I have an MCE224 HW due by the end of the week so I will be working towards that constantly.

**Week 5:** By the end of this week, I will have my first OR midterm and I will try to focus on it throughout the week and during the weekend before. However, I will only leave the day before fully dedicated to it. During the other days, I will divide the material evenly and integrate other courses with it as well to prevent cramming. For ENG204, I will be still constantly working through my breaks and anytime I am bored of studying OR/revising other courses, on the proposal mainly and reading chapters 13-15 during this week. Also, I will schedule a visit to the writing center during the end of this week to be able to revise and go over my proposal before

submitting it. Moreover, I will completely dedicate Saturday to the proposal if I am not done so I can submit it by the end of Saturday rather than Sunday to prevent any lateness emergencies.

**Week 6:** On Thursday of this week, I will be having my first MCE230 midterm. Hence, I will be keeping it as my priority but then again, I will dedicate the free time I have for editing and looking more closely into my research plan since I will have already received feedback from the professor on both the plan and proposal which will help me take a step forward and starting with the deep analysis of the outline. I will just collect more sources however I do not think I will start writing anything yet during this week to prepare for my two midterms the week after. However, I will finish ch16 and any unfinished chapter of the Perusall book during this week.

**Week 7:** During this week, I am scheduled to have Calc 3 midterm and MCE224 midterm one. And because both courses require extensive practice, I will only take the time in between my classes to work on writing (intro and put everything I want to write down in the right places so I will be ready to write. On that Thursday, I will finish my MCE224 midterm so I will take the day off and start during the weekend with writing the body of the working draft (or finishing the final outline of the working draft).

**Week 8:** So far, I do not have anything major scheduled this week so I will be mainly working on writing the working draft and finalizing it with a visit to the writing center and proofreading multiple times while simultaneously working on the progress report (which I will revise and finalize on Sunday before the submission and presentation day).

**Week 9:** I will have already submitted my working draft so all this week will be rereading and peer reviewing and going through the important parts that I will use on my final paper. By doing so, I will have the number of paragraphs and important subpoints ready so I will divide it to work on one part per day starting **week 12-14** including the weekends and excluding the days before any of my midterms round 2 so by the end of **week 14** I will have my final draft ready for the drafting consultations. I will also visit the writing center twice during this period as a check in and before the drafting consultations with the professor.

**Week 15:** final visit to the writing center after the professors' feedback and submit the final paper.

***Disclaimer: The plan I formulated is purely the ideal goal I wish to achieve. However, I may switch around dates due to quizzes and assignments, but I will try to keep the final achievements of each week as close as possible to the proposed plan above.***