

This is a graded discussion: 5 points possible

due Mar 6 at 1:59am

Week 1 - Discussion

18 18

Your initial discussion thread is due on Day 3 (Thursday) and you have until Day 7 (Monday) to respond to your classmates. Your grade will reflect both the quality of your initial post and the depth of your responses. Refer to the Discussion Forum Grading Rubric under the Settings icon above for guidance on how your discussion will be evaluated.

Choose Your Client [WLOs: 3, 4] [CLOs: 2, 3, 4]

Prior to beginning work on this discussion, read the article, "[Sentencing Advocates Enhance Reasoned Court Decisions](#)," then read the list of infamous murderers whose high profile crimes dominated headlines for many years. Choose one of these individuals to become your client for the remainder of the course. That is, this individual and case will be the topic of your final assignment in the course:

In your online classroom, select the link "[Killer Bios](#)" for a list of these infamous murderers. In that link, you will find several Ashford University Library sources on each murderer. In addition, there are some starter links listed below under each name.



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Exceptions for this category need approvals from:

- SaaS Review Team

Imagine that you have been retained by the client's defense attorney as a death penalty mitigation expert. Your role in this capacity is to work as a sentencing advocate on behalf of your client (the defendant). In Week 5, you will prepare a comprehensive case study report. This report will contain an analysis of the psychological factors that may have contributed to the commission of the crimes in the chosen case study and how these psychological factors should be considered as a basis for a prison sentence less than the death penalty. For the purpose of this discussion, we are proceeding as if the client is still alive and has not yet been sentenced (though all of these cases have already been resolved). In your initial post of 300 words, please examine the following and address the questions below:

- Tell us which client you chose and why. That is, what was it about the case that interested you?
- Based upon your preliminary research on this case/client and your assigned textbook readings, what mental disorders might your client be suffering from that may have contributed to the crime?
- Describe the disorder including its signs and symptoms. Connect those that you believe apply to your client's behavior.
- What does your textbook say about the likelihood that your client's mental states contributed to the crime?
- Discuss whether psychopathy, insanity, or competence to stand trial are potential issues in your client's case based upon your preliminary research of the case and your assigned textbook readings.
- Support your claims with examples from the required materials, other scholarly and/or credible sources, and properly cite any references.

Guided Response: Review several of your peers' initial posts and, in a minimum of 100 words each, respond to at least two of your classmates' posts by Day 7. As you read through your peers' posts, please respond to at least two of your classmates who chose a different "client" than you chose. Be sure to provide constructive feedback, and ask follow-up questions to your peers regarding their client and case. That is, focus on what your classmates write

about their clients' biopsychosocial histories. Is this similar to your client's history? Suggest at least one additional source to your classmates that may be helpful to them in investigating the relationship between the client's history and the crime. Respond in a substantive manner with specific examples to extend their thinking. Support your claims with examples from the required materials and/or other scholarly or credible sources, and properly cite any references. You are encouraged to post your required replies earlier in the week to promote more meaningful and interactive discourse in this discussion forum. Continue to monitor the discussion forum until 5:00 p.m. (Mountain Time) on Day 7, and respond with robust dialogue to anyone who replies to your initial post.

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<https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/61753/users/73482>

Mar 1, 2020

For this discussion, I chose Aileen Wuornos. I picked her because of the many challenges that she faced as soon as she was born. She never met her father, was abandoned by her mother, was raped by a friend of her grandparents, and was allegedly beaten by her grandfather (Blanco, n.d.) Psychological disorders that may have contributed to the crime are schizophrenia, which was a believed diagnosis from her father, and anti-social personality behavior, which stems from a consistent pattern of adverse reactions that remained from adolescence through adult life (DeLisi, Schwartz, & Klein, 2019). Signs and symptoms of schizophrenia that are associated with my client are persecutory delusions and disorganized speech. A persecutory delusion stems from an unfounded belief that people are intentionally trying to hurt the individual (DeLisi, Schwartz, & Klein, 2019). Due to Aileen's past of rape and sexual abuse, any actions from the victims could trigger traumatic experiences from the past. Disorganized speech, which is also referred to as loose associations, comes from unorganized expressions that are commonly bewildering (DeLisi, Schwartz, & Klein, 2019). Aileen's last words were, "I'd like to say I'm sailing with the rock, and I'll be back like Independence Day, with Jesus June 6. Like the movie, big mothership and all, I'll be back." (Blanco, n.d.). Disorganized speech is generally associated with disorderly thoughts (DeLisi, Schwartz, & Klein, 2019).

The textbook states that people dealing with a disorder involving psychosis have a higher probability of committing a crime when they are hallucinating, delusional, or experiencing a loss of reality. Severely mentally ill individuals have a higher probability of committing a violent crime when experiencing a psychotic episode (DeLisi, Schwartz, & Klein, 2019). Competence to stand trial is a potential issue in Wuornos' case because psychotic individuals are said to lack the cognitive understanding to determine right from wrong due to their psychiatric disorder (DeLisi, Schwartz, & Klein, 2019). However, if Aileen proves competent and still committed the crimes, then this aspect contradicts the notion that her mental state contributed to her actions.

References

Blanco, J.I. (n.d.). Aileen Wuornos. Murderpedia, the encyclopedia of murderers. Retrieved from <http://murderpedia.org/female.W/w/wuornos-aileen.htm> (<http://murderpedia.org/female.W/w/wuornos-aileen.htm>)

DeLisi, M., Schwartz, S., & Klein, E. (2019). *Criminal psychology* (https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/61753/external_tools/retrieve?display=borderless&url=https%3A%2F%2Fcontent.ashford.edu%2Fti%3Fbookcode%3DDeLisi.5989.19.1) (2nd ed.). Retrieved from <https://content.ashford.edu>

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<https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/61753/users/113412>

Friday

Hello Zyon.

Aileen is a very interesting type of serial killer. I find myself very invested in learning a lot about serial killers. I want to know all about their past and try to understand how a person can go through a rough time and just snap. I have watched many of documentaries on a lot of the murderers that are on this list that we had to choose from. It was actually hard for me to choose a person that I did not know much about which is why I chose Susan Smith. I feel that you diagnosed her perfectly. Her childhood was horrible and it did not get much better as she grew from an adolescence into her adult life. My big question is despite the constant abuse what triggers a person to believe that what they are doing, (committing murder), is justifiable? With schizophrenia and delusions it would be safe to say that her psychoses state took over and she had flashbacks on the pain she went through as a child and being an unstable adult she reacted with instant violent gratification to "numb" the mental pain she was going through at that moment. Unfortunately for the male victims this resulted in their death.

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<https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/61753/users/229953>

Friday

Hello Zyon,

I must say that schizophrenia is one of the more severe disorders when it comes to the mental health of a person. I can only imagine the dangers that accompany this disorder when the individual does not receive the proper treatment for it. After reading your entry, it definitely sounds like your client had some aggravating factors associated with her disorder. Her last words were also a testament to the severity of her mental disorder. Normally, there is some type of plain language used to deliver a final message to friends and family, but not in her case. I am curious to know more about her and her trial.

Bryan



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<https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/61753/users/4173>

Friday

Nice job: Aileen is very interesting as her childhood led to a lot of her adulthood behaviors. Sometimes, I wonder if her attorney shouldn't have argued her childhood more and how her early life led to who she became. I have a feeling if he would have, she may have been spared the death penalty, but still received life. One thing that I want you to keep in mind as you are working on this paper, is did PTSD have anything to do with her killing decisions - focus on the first man she killed and his criminal history. This is another area I believe her attorney failed. If you get a chance, go on YouTube and watch her last interview - it is very interesting. Good job.

tamara



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<https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/61753/users/113412>

Wednesday

Hello Classmates and Professor.

Tell us which client you chose and why. That is, what was it about the case that interested you?

For this discussion I chose Susan Smith. I picked her because I could not imagine how a woman could murder her children in order to keep a relationship with a man.

Based upon your preliminary research on this case/client and your assigned textbook readings, what mental disorders might your client be suffering from that may have contributed to the crime?

Susan Smith suffered from antisocial personality disorder. According to DeLisi, M., Schwartz, S., & Klein, E. (2019 Ch. 2.4), "antisocial d=personality disorder is the most common mental illness diagnosis of people who commit crimes." Since Susan used manipulation to make up a story for the police and had a lack of empathy towards her children's murder she committed she showed traits of antisocial personality disorder and psychopathy or sociopathy.

Describe the disorder including its signs and symptoms. Connect those that you believe apply to your client's behavior.

Susan did have a very rough childhood. She was molested by her step dad. Her real father committed suicide after her mom and dad got a divorce. She was in and out of violent relationships. When she got with a wealthy man who really treated her good but did not want kids, something snapped in her and she decided to drown her children and tell the police that an African American man carjacked her car with the kids in there. This is manipulation. The lack of empathy comes in when she really didn't care that her children were dead. She just wanted them out of the way in order to be a man who didn't want kids. There was no remorse and Susan told police 9 days later that she was in fact the one who pushed the car into the water with her children strapped into it.

What does your textbook say about the likelihood that your client's mental states contributed to the crime?

The textbook states that individuals who exhibit these traits are referred to as psychopaths, or sociopaths who use manipulation to get what they want, they have a lack of empathy for feelings of others, they have shallow emotional responses, extraordinary high levels of self esteem, and

pathologically lie with superficial charm. (DeLisi, Schwartz, & Klein, 2019). The traits that Susan showed was able to convict her to a 30 Year sentence for the crime of murder. (Susan Smith Biography, 2019).

References

DeLisi, M., Schwartz, S., & Klein, E. (2019). Criminal psychology (2nd ed.). Retrieved from <https://content.ashford.edu> (<https://content.ashford.edu>)

Biography, (2019). Susan Smith Biography. Retrieved from <https://www.biography.com/crime-figure/susan-smith> (<https://content.ashford.edu>)

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○  [Zyon Manning \(https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/61753/users/73482\)](https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/61753/users/73482) Thursday

Hi Coletta,

Susan Smith's case is disturbing to me for two reasons. One reason is that I'm a parent of two children and couldn't imagine anyone performing such a terrible crime. Another reason is that I'm an African American, and it's sad when someone attempts to benefit from profiling a race that supports negative perspectives. I agree with your assessment that she has an anti-social personality disorder as she reveals apparent negligence for the rights of others. To be diagnosed with APD, an individual must possess specific criteria presented by the DSM-5 (DeLisi, Schwartz, & Klein, 2019). Three conditions that I believe fit Susan's personality are extreme impulsiveness, reckless disregard, and lack of empathy. To assist with your client's history and the crime, you could investigate the link between psychopathy and criminal behavior. Psychopathic traits contribute to more violence than individuals who do not possess these attributes (Swogger et al., 2012).


References

DeLisi, M., Schwartz, S., & Klein, E. (2019). *Criminal psychology* (https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/61753/external_tools/retrieve?display=borderless&url=https%3A%2F%2Fcontent.ashford.edu%2Fti%3Fbookcode%3DDeLisi.5989.19.1) (2nd ed.). Retrieved from <https://content.ashford.edu>

Swogger, M. T., Walsh, Z., Homaifar, B. Y., Caine, E. D., & Conner, K. R. (2012). Predicting self- and other-directed violence among discharged psychiatric patients: The roles of anger and psychopathic traits. *Psychological Medicine*, 42, 371–379.

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○  [Tamara Schnepel \(https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/61753/users/4173\)](https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/61753/users/4173) Friday

Nice job: Susan Smith is very interesting. It is amazing that a mom can do this to her own children and then make it seem that someone else did the crime. Look at what would possibly cause her to try and blame someone else. Also, do a comparison with Diane Downs; she shot her children trying to kill them because of a man. Look at how they are similar and different; look at how their attorney's presented their cases - what worked in both cases that would make the outcome for Susan better in the end. You have already dug into her childhood - look at the possibility if her childhood would have been different would that have changed the outcome for Susan? Just some ideas. Good job.

tamara

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○  [Leasha Richards \(https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/61753/users/223130\)](https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/61753/users/223130) Thursday

Week 1 discussion

I chose Aileen Wuornos because she was a woman serial killer and I was interested to find out what would make her do such horrific things. It's not very often you hear about a woman serial killer due to the fact the women are known for being nurturers and givers of life and not takers of life. I was curious to know who or what could have inflicted such pain and hurt upon her that she would want to project that on to others.

After doing some research on the connection between mental disorders and crime, I have concluded that Aileen seem to have suffered from Antisocial Personality Disorder, PTSD and Major depressive disorder. Due to Aileen having such a traumatic childhood of being raped and abused at an early age. She left home at 15 years of age and started living on the streets. Aileen became a prostitute because with little education she might have adapted the mindset of doing what she must in order to survive. I truly think that Aileen wanted a better life for herself but she started out so young on the wrong foot in life that it become normal to her to live the way she was living. It appears that she was attacked while prostituting and that event caused her to started robing and killing in order for her to survive. It seems like this was her justification for the reasons why she did what she did and continued to do so.

Antisocial Personality disorder is said to be the most common mental illness diagnosis of individuals who commit crimes. This would be fitting considering how frantic her early childhood life experience were. This diagnosis is a pervasive pattern of blatant disregard for the rights of others that becomes evident in adolescence and continues throughout the adult life span. PTSD PTSD may occur as a trauma response to a significantly traumatizing event, Aileen's father committed suicide in jail when she was only 2 years old and she was constantly being sexually abused at home. So this can trigger PTSD. Major depressive disorder can develop from a pro long period of time of going through trauma and great financial strain and self esteem issues in life. Sign of depression can verify from low self confidence, to over sleeping to promiscuous behavior such as prostitution.

There is a strong possibility that her mental illness did contribute to the crimes that she committed. Her financial situation caused great major depression and that lead her to make irrational decisions along with struggling with PTSD from being raped and abused by different men. This could have been linked to her being withdrawn from society and developed trust issues. It's one judge domino effect on her life leading to a stream of decisions that caused a downward spiral in her life.

I would say that insanity would be a potential issue due to the fact that she plead guilty to all of the charges and she believed that some of them deserved what they got. She didn't show remorse for some of them because she said it was in self defense in some instances and in others she was just robing them to get money to sustain herself. She knew what she was doing so the insanity plea would not go well for her.


Resources

DeLisi, M., Schwartz, S., & Klein, E. (2019). Criminal psychology (2nd ed.). Retrieved from <https://content.ashford.edu> (<https://content.ashford.edu/>)

Patrick, S., & Miller, J. (2009). Sentencing Advocates Enhance Reasoned Court Decisions. Criminal Justice, 24(2), 30-36. Retrieved from

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 <https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/61753/users/229953>
Friday


Hello Leasha,

I think I share your interest when it comes to women serial killers as most women are expected to be more kind and caring. Especially as it pertains to gender related attributes and characteristics. However, as we can see, even the most kind hearted individual can turn into a cold blooded killer if placed in the right environment. With her history of rape and abuse, it is no surprise that she survived by somewhat numbing her senses a bit. It seems as though this "numbing" method went a little deeper than just the physical plane, but also to the mental plane, resulting in her committing some of the crimes she did. Maybe her insanity came as a by-product of distancing herself from the outside world and she forgot the basic rights and wrongs and also forgot how to practice the golden rule of treating people how you would like to be treated. She did have a lot of factors and the lack of remorse shows just how far gone she was towards the end.

Bryan

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 <https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/61753/users/4173>
Friday

Nice job: Aileen is very interesting. One thing that I will encourage you to do is to watch her last interview video on YouTube. This will give you some more information on her that comes from her own mouth. Also, there is a current documentary out on her (I wish I could remember the name of it) that deals with letters to her childhood friend - this may help you also. Also, think about if her childhood would have been different would her adult behaviors been different? This is not as easy of an answer as it seems. Also, look at the idea of PTSD - with this I am encouraging you to look at the first man she killed, the reason she stated she killed him, and then look at his criminal record. Could she have had a legitimate defense here? You did a good job on this and I hope these suggestions help.

tamara

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<https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/61753/users/229953>
Thursday

Tell us which client you chose and why. That is, what was it about the case that interested you?

I read numerous bios on the list of individuals prior to picking one as my client for the remainder of this course and I have decided to settle on Timothy McVeigh. I picked this individual due to his experience in the military and wanted to examine the impact that wartime combat had on his mental psyche.

Based upon your preliminary research on this case/client and your assigned textbook readings, what mental disorders might your client be suffering from that may have contributed to the crime?

I believe Timothy McVeigh had an Antisocial Personality Disorder (APD). According to DeLisi, M., Schwartz, S., & Klein, E. (2019) "is hallmarked by a pervasive pattern of blatant disregard for the rights of others that becomes evident in adolescence and continues throughout the adult life span". I believe this to be true due to Timothy McVeigh's lack of remorse for the deaths resulting from his bombing in Oklahoma City. There was a daycare on the second floor of the building he bombed and when informed of the children he killed, he simply shrugged it off and labeled their deaths as collateral damage.

I believe Timothy McVeigh also had post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). According to DeLisi, M., Schwartz, S., & Klein, E. (2019) PTSD may occur as a trauma response to a significantly traumatizing event that an individual experiences or witnesses directly, such as sexual violence, actual death of another or threatened death of another or self, or serious injury of another or self. I would attribute this to his combat action in the Persian Gulf War in 1991. I believe to be true due to Timothy McVeigh being described as funny and happy prior to joining the United States Army, but he was described as bitter and resentful after he was discharged.

What does your textbook say about the likelihood that your client's mental states contributed to the crime?

According to DeLisi, M., Schwartz, S., & Klein, E. (2019), post-traumatic stress disorder is significantly less likely to be a mental illness associated with criminal behavior.

Discuss whether psychopathy, insanity, or competence to stand trial are potential issues in your client's case based upon your preliminary research of the case and your assigned textbook readings

I believe psychopath would be an issue in my client's case. I believe that due to his upbringing and some of his life experiences, he lost a certain connection needed to display rational thought and behavior. I believe this was amplified by some of his readings and affiliations as well.

Bryan

References:

DeLisi, M., Schwartz, S., & Klein, E. (2019). Criminal psychology (2nd ed.). Retrieved from <https://content.ashford.edu>

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<https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/61753/users/73482>
Friday

Hi Bryan,

When I read Timothy's case, I began to wonder about various aspects of his childhood. I was curious if he had a relationship with his mother after his parents divorced. I was also interested in his admiration for guns and if this obsession stemmed from a potential lack of security that he developed from being bullied when he was a teenager. I agree with your assessment of Timothy, stating that he has an anti-social personality disorder and PTSD. While I was shocked by his response when he was told that there were children in the building that he bombed, McVeigh does state how the army taught him how to dismiss his emotions when necessary (Blanco, n.d.). Another source that may help identify a link between your client's history and the crime is impulse control (Kosson, Smith & Newman, 1990). Timothy revealed several impulsive actions, such as bringing guns to school, dropping out of business school, dropping out of the special forces, and his brief use of methamphetamine with an old friend from the army (Blanco, n.d.).

Reference

Blanco, J. I. (n.d.). Timothy McVeigh. Murderpedia, the encyclopedia of murderers. Retrieved from <http://murderpedia.org/male/M/m1/mcveigh-timothy.htm> (<http://murderpedia.org/male/M/m1/mcveigh-timothy.htm>)

Kosson, D. S., Smith, S. S., & Newman, J. P. (1990). Evaluating the construct validity of psychopathy in Black and White male inmates: Three preliminary studies. *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, 99, 259.

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<https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/61753/users/4173>

Saturday

Nice job! You picked a good one! Timothy is very interesting. When you are researching him, be sure to really look at his childhood and what could/did happen that could have led to his choices in adulthood. I don't want you to think that I am dismissing his time in the military and what he saw while serving overseas, but a lot of times there is something in the childhood that becomes in-bedded in our unconscious mind that come out due to things that happen later in life. Also, look at why he wanted death - why did he not fight the death penalty, like most do. There is something in his mind that tells him that is better off dead than alive - this also goes into the idea of why did he bomb the Federal Building - was he wanting to die then?

Hope these ideas help you and make sense! Good job.

tamara

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<https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/61753/users/48636>

Thursday

I chose Aileen Wuornos, the reason why is twofold. The first is that she was born into a horrible situation, abuse like she grew up with stays with a person. The second is that reading through the information given it feels like there are some missing pieces that were overlooked. Wuornos was diagnosed with both borderline personality disorder and antisocial personality disorder, she also had a father that was believed to be schizophrenic, which can be genetically passed down (Blanco, n.d.). She shows signs of emotional instability and has a past of "maladaptive and harmful behaviors" (Shalchi, May 30, 2019) which are clear symptoms of her borderline personality disorder. Her behavior also shows a distinct "disregard for the rights of others" (DeLisi, Schwartz, & Klein, 2019), which is a symptom of antisocial personality disorder. Both if these disorders can be seen when looking at her previous arrests which involve disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, multiple counts of assault, and obstruction of justice, as well as the rest of her criminal record (Blanco, n.d.). Schizophrenic behavior is also shown in her inability to tell the difference between delusions and reality, which would also help explain why her story keeps changing between murder and self-defense. I would also like to note that while she does not necessarily show all of the classic signs of PTSD, it would be wise to look into how her childhood trauma has affected her. Her childhood trauma includes being abandoned at a young age by her mother, sexual assault from multiple sources, and being beaten by her grandfather (Blanco, n.d.).

Schizophrenia and antisocial personality disorder are both within the "most commonly diagnosed mental disorders in criminal offenders" (DeLisi, Schwartz, & Klein, 2019), PTSD is also to a much lesser extent, which are all disorders that Wuornos has or shows signs of potentially having. There is a chance of Wuornos not being able to stand trial due to competency issues. One of the main clues to this is that she can not keep her story straight due to her inability to tell her delusions from reality. If it was her just lying then the story would stay mostly confined to the exact same, the truth on the other hand will start to expand as she has more time to process the information. With her though it keeps switching from murder to self defense, and she shows to believe both as being the truth.

Resources

Blanco, J. I. (n.d.). Aileen Wuornos | Murderpedia, the encyclopedia of murderers. Retrieved from <http://murderpedia.org/female/W/w/wuornos-aileen.htm>

DeLisi, M., Schwartz, S., & Klein, E. (2019). *Criminal psychology* (2nd ed.). Retrieved from <http://content.ashford.edu>

Shalchi, H. (May 30, 2019). Borderline personality disorder, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia: What's the difference? Baylor College of Medicine. Retrieved from <https://blogs.bcm.edu/2019/05/30/borderline-personality-disorder-bipolar-disorder-and-schizophrenia-whats-the-difference/>

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<https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/61753/users/4173>

Saturday


Nice job!! There are a lot of missing pieces - I firmly believe her attorney missed a lot of things that could have spared her life. Starting with her childhood - look at the idea of what in her childhood led to her adult behaviors. My best advice is watch her last interview video (you can find on YouTube), this will give you a lot of insight into her mindset; also there is a new documentary out (I cannot remember the name) that discusses letters to a childhood friend - this adds a new twist on to who Aileen was in her childhood - but keep in mind is this just a person who really loves and cares for Aileen not seeing the true Aileen. Also, look at the idea of PTSD (I know you discussed this) in relation to the first man she killed - look at his criminal history. With Aileen there is a lot to think about - the final question really is: Did we put to death a woman who was severely mentally ill? Also, think about what the US Constitution states about putting a mentally ill person to death. Good job!

Hope these thought processes help you!

tamara

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 <https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/61753/users/25993>
Courtney Hill (https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/61753/users/25993)
Saturday

Tell us which client you chose and why. That is, what was it about the case that interested you?

The client I chose Timothy McVeigh. I chose this murderer because of his military background. I am in the military and I have served overseas. I have seen the mental stability of my fellow Airmen diminish over time during deployments. This case is interesting because it was one of the most fatal domestic events prior to September 11, 2001.

Based upon your preliminary research on this case/client and your assigned textbook readings, what mental disorders might your client be suffering from that may have contributed to the crime?

Based upon preliminary research, I believe Timothy McVeigh could be suffering from post traumatic stress disorder. This could also present forms of delusions.

Describe the disorder including its signs and symptoms. Connect those that you believe apply to your client's behavior.

McVeigh believe the government was out to get him and threatening his Second Amendment rights to bear arms. This is persecutory delusions. It could have been from his time at war not understanding his role.

What does your textbook say about the likelihood that your client's mental states contributed to the crime?

The textbook says the likelihood of mental stability contributing to a crime exist. "Empirical data contradict this perception and show that seriously mentally ill individuals are significantly more likely to be victims of a crime than they are to perpetrate crimes." (Schwartz & Klein, 2019)


Discuss whether psychopathy, insanity, or competence to stand trial are potential issues in your client's case based upon your preliminary research of the case and your assigned textbook readings.

Based upon preliminary research I do not see potential issues in McVeigh's case. His mental stability and capability are sufficient to stand trial.

DeLisi, M., Schwartz, S., & Klein, E. (2019). *Criminal psychology* (https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/61753/external_tools/retrieve?display=borderless&url=https%3A%2F%2Fcontent.ashford.edu%2Fiti%3Fbookcode%3DDeLisi.5989.19.1) (2nd ed.). Retrieved from https://content.ashford.edu

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Tamara Schnepel (https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/61753/users/4173)
Saturday

Nice job! When looking at Timothy, really dig back into his childhood and see what happened in his childhood that could have led to his adult behaviors. Many times things happen in a persons childhood that get locked into our unconscious mind and then resurface later in life - is this what happened with Timothy? Netflix also has a documentary on the Oklahoma City bombing, which may give you additional insight into who Timothy was. Also, attempt to understand why he wanted to die; why did he give up all of his appeals? Was he hoping to die during the bombing, or by the hands of police after the bombing. Really look into his mindset for his willingness to die so easily. Hope these tidbits help. Good job.

tamara

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10:22am

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Hello Courtney.

Timothy McVeigh is another very interesting case. With his PTSD it is easy to see how what he did was justifiable in his eyes. His delusions and self conspiracy theories towards the government on top of the disorder definitely contributed to the reason he bombed that building. I feel that he probably wanted to die but I think he did not want to just commit suicide because most feel that it is the coward way out and with being an ex soldier who lives by codes and strict rules this may not have been an honorable way to go out. After all since he was making a stand for something he irrationally believed in it would make more sense to go out with the bang he and his military buddy believed in. Great post.

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