Southern New Hampshire University

PSY 310 Final Project Guidelines and Rubric

Overview

The final project for this course is the creation of an executive summary report. You will write a summary, conduct a crime assessment, and create a profile of a criminal. You will then develop a conclusion and consider the investigative use of the information you have compiled. Criminal psychology encompasses a wide range of information about someone which can be drawn together, synthesized, and written into a format used by the criminal justice system prior to an arrest. Typically, criminal psychologists are called upon to provide advice and consultation when the crimes are not straightforward. Law enforcement officers are experts at tracking data and looking for crime-related clues to help them solve a case. However, when they need assistance determining who a criminal is, or what a criminal's motivation might be—in a predictive sense—they rely on the capabilities of professionals who are versed both in criminology and psychology. A *criminal profile* emerges as data comes together. This is not the same as the information you see on the news; rather, it is a comprehensive look at the biological, psychological, social, and environmental factors that make a person unique to a criminal case. Some of the information is based on empirical data and some is based on educated assumptions made by the criminal psychologist.

In this executive summary report, you will look at a variety of factors and work to answer the question "who is this person?" You will examine criminal statistics, lifestyle, upbringing, medical and mental health information, along with a range of other information, that will help you answer the "who, what, when, where, and why" of your chosen case. It will be your job to draw from your previous education and training to learn how to understand what information is relevant to your case. There is no piece of information that is too small to help you build the mosaic of how past activity can help predict future activity. Your profile will be thorough, addressing all of the areas and questions above for the aim of assisting investigators to understand the criminal and his or her motivations and motives as well as the risk of the criminal activity continuing in the future. Through prompts and independent research outside of the text, you'll peer into the world of investigative profiling.

The project is divided into **two milestones**, which will be submitted at various points throughout the course to scaffold learning and ensure quality final submissions. These milestones will be submitted in **Modules Three and Five.** The final product will be submitted in **Module Seven.**

In this assignment, you will demonstrate your mastery of the following course outcomes:

- PSY-310-01: Assess biological, developmental, and environmental factors to determine the impact on criminal behavior
- PSY-310-02: Apply relevant psychological theories to criminal behavior in order to analyze motivation
- PSY-310-03: Apply psychological methods to the development of a psychological profile that synthesizes relevant data
- PSY-310-04: Determine appropriate intervention strategies related to criminal behavior supported by psychological theory and research

Prompt

You will complete an executive summary report that includes criminal and psychological aspects of a particular crime to inform the executive team in order to prevent or intervene in criminal behavior. You may choose one of the following three scenarios to complete your final project:

1. White Collar Crime (Plain Text Version)
2. Serial Murderer (Plain Text Version)
3. Domestic Terror (Plain Text Version)

Specifically, you must address the **critical elements** listed below. Most of the critical elements align with a particular course outcome (shown in brackets).

I. **Summary**
    A. **Summarize the case** provided. In your summary, include key facts and demographic information. [PSY-310-01]
    B. Develop **initial hypothesis** about the potential motivation to commit the crime. As you consider the motivation, identify the type of crime that was committed. [PSY-310-02]

II. **Crime Assessment**
    A. **Compare** data and evidence of similar crimes. [PSY-310-03]
    B. **Identify patterns** found in similar crimes. [PSY-310-03]
    C. Make inferences about **motivation** of the identified individual based on case evidence and comparison to similar crimes. [PSY-310-02]

III. **Profile**
    A. Develop a **demographic summary** of the individual based on analysis of data from the case. [PSY-310-03]
    B. Explain the impact that **biological factors** of the case had on the individual's behavior. [PSY-310-01]
    C. Explain the impact that **developmental factors** of the case had on the individual's behavior. [PSY-310-01]
    D. Explain the impact that **environmental factors** of the case had on the individual's behavior. [PSY-310-01]
    E. **Apply theories** to the emerging hypothesis of the motivation of your chosen subject. In your response, consider the biological, psychological, social, and criminal violence theories. [PSY-310-02]

IV. **Conclusion and Investigative Use**
    A. Develop a **global summary** based on a synthesis of the inputs, crime assessment, and profile. [PSY-310-03]
    B. Anticipate **future behavior** based on predictive analysis. [PSY-310-04]

C. Develop **intervention strategies** to mitigate future criminal behavior. Be sure to explain how your strategies will impact future behavior. [PSY-310-04]
D. Discuss **limitations** of data to developing your report. In your response, consider the information that was missing that you wish you had and reliability and validity of the data you reviewed. [PSY-310-04]
E. Based on your report, discuss how the information collected could contribute to the **capture, understanding, and prosecution** of the individual. [PSY-310-04]

Milestones

Milestone One: *Summary and Crime Assessment*

In **Module Three**, you will submit a draft of your summary and crime assessment. **This milestone will be graded with the Milestone One Rubric.**

Milestone Two: *Profile*
In **Module Five**, you will submit a draft of the profile. **This milestone will be graded with the Milestone Two Rubric.**

Final Submission: *Executive Summary Report*

In **Module Seven**, you will submit your final project. It should be a complete, polished artifact containing **all** of the critical elements of the final product. It should reflect the incorporation of feedback gained throughout the course. You will add the conclusion and investigative use section to the final project submission. **This submission will be graded with the Final Project Rubric.**

Southern New Hampshire University

Final Project Rubric

Guidelines for Submission: Your executive summary report must be 4–6 pages in length (plus a cover page and references) and must be written in APA format. Use double spacing, 12-point Times New Roman font, and one-inch margins. Include at least five references cited in APA format.

Critical Elements	Exemplary (100%)	Proficient (85%)	Needs Improvement (55%)	Not Evident (0%)	Value
Summary: Summarize the Case	Meets "Proficient" criteria and response demonstrates an advanced ability to distill key details from a provided case study	Summarizes the case study and includes key facts and demographic information	Summarizes the case study but summary is missing key facts or demographic information	Does not summarize the case study	6
Summary: Initial Hypothesis	Meets "Proficient" criteria and response demonstrates a sophisticated awareness of the potential motivation to commit the crime	Develops initial hypothesis about the potential motivation to commit the crime	Develops initial hypothesis about the potential motivation to commit the crime but the hypothesis is cursory or lacks detail	Does not develop an initial hypothesis about the potential motivation to commit the crime	8
Crime Assessment: Compare	Meets "Proficient" criteria and comparison is exceptionally clear and includes exceptional detail	Compares data and evidence of similar crimes	Compares data and evidence of similar crimes but comparison is cursory or contains inaccuracies	Does not compare data and evidence of similar crimes	6
Crime Assessment: Identify Patterns	Meets "Proficient" criteria and demonstrates keen ability to identify patterns	Identifies patterns found in similar crimes	Identifies patterns found in similar crimes but response is cursory or illogical or lacks detail	Does not identify patterns found in similar crimes	6
Crime Assessment: Motivation	Meets "Proficient" criteria and inferences show advanced ability to draw connections from evidence in multiple cases	Draws inferences about the motivation of the individual to commit the crime based on evidence in multiple cases	Draws inferences about the motivation of the individual to commit the crime but response is cursory or illogical or lacks detail	Does not draw inferences about the motivation of the individual to commit the crime	8

Criteria	Exemplary	Proficient	Needs Improvement	Not Evident	Value
Profile: Demographic Summary	Meets "Proficient" criteria and response demonstrates an exceptionally detailed summary	Develops a demographic summary of the individual based on analysis of data from the case	Develops a demographic summary of the individual based on analysis of data from the case but the demographic summary of the individual is cursory or lacks detail	Does not analyze data from the case to develop a demographic summary of the individual	6
Profile: Biological Factors	Meets "Proficient" criteria and response demonstrates an insightful ability to assess the impact of biological factors	Explains the impact that biological factors of the case had on the individual's behavior	Explains the impact that biological factors of the case had on the individual's behavior but explanation lacks sufficient detail	Does not explain the impact that biological factors of the case had on the individual's behavior	6
Profile: Developmental Factors	Meets "Proficient" criteria and response demonstrates an insightful ability to assess the impact of developmental factors	Explains the impact that developmental factors of the case had on the individual's behavior	Explains the impact that developmental factors of the case had on the individual's behavior but explanation lacks sufficient detail	Does not explain the impact that developmental factors of the case had on the individual's behavior	6
Profile: Environmental Factors	Meets "Proficient" criteria and response demonstrates an insightful ability to assess the impact of environmental factors	Explains the impact that environmental factors of the case had on the individual's behavior	Explains the impact that environmental factors of the case had on the individual's behavior but explanation lacks sufficient detail	Does not explain the impact that environmental factors of the case had on the individual's behavior	6
Profile: Apply Theories	Meets "Proficient" criteria and description demonstrates a complex grasp of the application of theories to the hypothesis of motivation	Applies theories to the emerging hypothesis of motivation for the identified individual	Applies theories to the emerging hypothesis of motivation for the identified individual but response is missing key theories	Does not apply theories to the emerging hypothesis of motivation for the identified individual	8
Conclusion and Investigative Use: Global Summary	Meets "Proficient" criteria and demonstrates an advanced ability to synthesize key details	Develops global summary based on a synthesis of the inputs, crime assessment, and profile	Develops global summary but summary is missing key elements or lacks clear synthesis of details	Does not develop global summary based on a synthesis of the inputs, crime assessment, and profile	6
Conclusion and Investigative Use: Future Behavior	Meets "Proficient" criteria and demonstrates keen insight into the application of predictive analysis	Anticipates future behavior of individual based on predictive analysis	Anticipates future behavior of individual based on predictive analysis but response is cursory or illogical or lacks detail	Does not anticipate future behavior of individual based on predictive analysis	6

Conclusion and Investigative Use: Intervention Strategies	Meets "Proficient" criteria and demonstrates a nuanced understanding of how intervention strategies mitigate future criminal behavior	Develops intervention strategies, explaining how they will mitigate future criminal behavior	Develops intervention strategies to mitigate this behavior in the future but interventions are not applied appropriately or lack justification	Does not develop intervention strategies to mitigate future criminal behavior	6
Conclusion and Investigative Use: Limitations	Meets "Proficient" criteria and description demonstrates a sophisticated awareness of the case details	Discusses limitations of data in developing the report	Discusses limitations to developing the report but response is cursory or illogical or lacks detail	Does not discuss limitations to developing the report	6
Conclusion and Investigative Use: Capture, Understanding, and Prosecution	Meets "Proficient" criteria and demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of how the report contributes to the capture, understanding, and prosecution of the individual	Discusses how the information collected could contribute to the capture, understanding, and prosecution of the individual	Discusses how the information collected could contribute to the capture, understanding, and prosecution of the individual but description is cursory, illogical, or lacks detail	Does not discuss how the information collected could contribute to the capture, understanding, and prosecution of the individual	6
Articulation of Response	Submission is free of errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, and organization and is presented in a professional and easy-to-read format	Submission has no major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization	Submission has major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that negatively impact readability and articulation of main idea	Submission has critical errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that prevent understanding of ideas	4
				Total	100%