

PSY 368: Psychology of Terrorism
Spring 2020
Response Paper #3

Overview

The purpose of this paper is to make connections between psychological theories presented in class and the behavior of actual terrorist groups.

This paper is due in the D2L Assignments tab on Wednesday, April 1 by 11:00 am. No late papers will be accepted.

Writing Your Paper

1. Read the article "*The Terrorists in their Own Words: Interviews with 35 Incarcerated Middle Eastern Terrorists*" by Post et al. (2003). You can find a PDF of this article in the Readings section of the Content tab in D2L.
2. Write a paper that addresses the following:
 - *Part 1: Summary of Post et al. (2003) article*
 - Briefly summarize the Post et al. (2003) article.
 - In your opinion, what were the most noteworthy results in the article, and why?
 - *Part 2: The Self & Self-Concept*
 - Briefly explain the ideas proposed by Kruglanski et al. (2013) in the article "*Terrorism – A (Self) Love Story*" (presented in class, available on D2L as a PDF). Specifically, how do the authors suggest that a quest for significance could result in terrorist activity?
 - Describe how some of the statements made by terrorists in the Post et al. (2003) article could be seen as evidence for the model proposed by Kruglanski et al. (2013). Be sure to make specific reference(s) to quotes from terrorists (from the Post et al. article, on pages 177-183).
 - *Part 3: Culture & Social Identity*
 - Briefly describe the basic concepts of structural symbolic interactionism, as described by Arena & Arrigo (2005) in their article "*Social Psychology, Terrorism, and Identity*" (presented in class, available on D2L as a PDF). Specifically, according to this identity-formation model, what types of influences might make a person more likely to join a terrorist group?
 - Describe how some of the statements made by terrorists in the Post et al. (2003) article could be seen as evidence for the model proposed by Arena & Arrigo (2005). Be sure to make specific reference(s) to quotes from terrorists (from the Post et al. article, on pages 177-183).

Miscellaneous Notes

- Avoid directly quoting the articles, and instead be sure to explain all concepts in your own words. (The exception to this is when you are referencing direct quotes from terrorists in the Post et al. article.)
- There is no specific page length requirement for this paper. You are graded on the ideas that you express, not on how many words you use to express them. With that said, I would imagine that a paper that fully addresses all questions in this assignment will be approximately 3 pages long.
- Response Papers should be typed in Times New Roman 12 point font, double-spaced.
- Although references are not required for this assignment, you may find that you need to cite research or course materials when writing Response Papers. If you cite any sources, you must include a reference list. Any references must be of scholarly sources (e.g. textbooks, lesson materials, and peer-reviewed journal articles). Websites and news sources are not acceptable references.
- You do not need to include a title page or abstract, but make sure that your name is on the paper.
- Please make sure that your paper is saved as a .doc, .docx, or .pdf file.
- When you have completed the paper, upload it to the Response Paper 3 folder under Assignments in D2L.
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Grading Rubric

<i>Grading Criteria</i>	<i>Points</i>
Does this paper give a complete summary of the Post et al. (2003) article, including a discussion of which results seemed most noteworthy to the student (and why)?	5
Does this paper accurately explain the Kruglanski et al. (2013) model, and describe some of the Post et al. (2003) findings that support its predictions?	5
Does this paper accurately explain the Arena & Arrigo (2005) model, and describe some of the Post et al. (2003) findings that support its predictions?	5
Is the paper neat, clean, easy-to-read, and relatively free of spelling/grammar issues?	5