

PSY 368: Psychology of Terrorism
Spring 2020
Response Paper #4

Overview

The purpose of this paper is to consider how modern technology (specifically the Internet) influences the psychology of terrorism.

This paper is due in the D2L Assignments tab on Wednesday, April 29 by 11:00 am. No late papers will be accepted.

Writing Your Paper

1. Read the article “*Determining the Role of the Internet in Violent Extremism and Terrorism: Six Suggestions for Progressing Research*” by Conway (2017). You can find a PDF of this article in the Readings section of the Content tab in D2L.
2. The Conway (2017) article contains three major sections. Write a paper that addresses the following questions about these three sections:
 - *Section 1: State of current research on the Internet & terrorism*
 - What is the difference between descriptive research and explanatory research? According to Conway, which one needs to be in place first, before the other can happen? Why?
 - Conway argues that there is a lack of descriptive research on the role of the Internet in terrorism. Why does that lack of evidence matter?
 - *Section 2: Arguments for & against the Internet having a role in terrorism*
 - What arguments are typically made against the idea that the Internet is a powerful force in shaping terrorism? What arguments can be made for the argument that the Internet powerfully shapes terrorism? Which perspective does Conway seem to agree with?
 - What are your opinions about the role of the Internet in extremism and terrorism? Do you think that it plays a major role? Why or why not?
 - *Section 3: Key questions about the Internet & terrorism, and 6 ideas for studying them*
 - Conway suggests two fundamental questions about the role of the Internet in terrorism that still need to be answered. What are these two questions?
 - Conway then suggests six possibilities for addressing these two fundamental questions (widen, compare, deepen, upscale, outreach, & gender). Briefly describe each of these suggestions, and what each would contribute to our understanding of the Internet’s role in terrorism.
 - Of Conway’s six suggestions, which one strikes you as being the most interesting and/or productive for psychologists to pursue? Why?

Miscellaneous Notes

- Avoid directly quoting the article, and instead be sure to explain all concepts in your own words.
- 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 4 folder under Assignments in D2L.
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Grading Rubric

<i>Grading Criteria</i>	<i>Points</i>
Does this paper explain the differences between descriptive and explanatory research? And does it explain why a lack of descriptive research is problematic?	5
Does this paper accurately summarize arguments for and against the idea that the Internet is a powerful influence on terrorism? Does the paper reflect the student's opinions about the Internet's role in terrorism?	5
Does this paper accurately summarize the two fundamental questions posed by Conway, along with her six suggestions about approaching these questions? Does the paper reflect the student's opinions about which of these suggestions might be the most interesting and/or productive to pursue?	5
Is the paper neat, clean, easy-to-read, and relatively free of spelling/grammar issues?	5