

An example of what ‘synthesizing’ for the Critical Analysis papers looks like. (I’ve made up much of this content and references right here on the spot, so don’t use this for anything other than a guide for writing and organizing your papers).

Cover Page

be sure to include your name

the TOPIC you’re addressing

course title

date

Introduction

Approximately **% of the U.S. population is affected by Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Post-traumatic stress disorder is defined as (citation)..... Individuals who suffer from PTSD typically experience symptoms such as hyperarousal, intrusive thoughts, depression, This paper will seek to understand the methods used to scientifically examine this phenomenon, as well as the limitations and implications of those studies....

Methodologies

Studies designed to assess post-traumatic stress disorder have evaluated the experiences of a wide variety of individuals including, for instance, rape victims (Smith, 2012), soldiers (Chaz, 2009), and children who have suffered maltreatment (Dexter, 2011). In most studies like these, scientists utilize fMRI scans or EEGs to measure brain volume and activity. This gives them information on how individuals respond to repeated stimuli... To better understand the immediate effects versus the long-term effects of PTSD, researchers have also used brain scans to get a picture of responses to newly presented informationblah blah blah.

Aside from the use of neuroscientific measurements, prominent psychologists have sought to better understand PTSD by using behavioral assessments such as CAPS (Clinician-Administered PTSD Scale). Briere (2005) used this method in his study of 105 returning soldiers... (add just a couple sentences more on this study). His findings give us an open forum for critically important discussion of the seriousness of homelessness for these veterans.

Implications

A review of the recent literature on PTSD gives us more insight on the serious effects of it, not just on individuals’ lives, but on their families, friends, employers, and society overall. Briere (2005) reports that the number of homeless veterans is on the rise and, as such.... (here you see that you are expanding on your brief mention of homelessness in the previous paragraph – because it is HERE you are going to talk

about the implications). Greater funding to support these individuals.. new policies... is needed. In fact, because of Briere's work in this field, wide public recognition has played a role in the development of the Foundation for ** Soldiers...

Additionally, the neuroscientific evidence we have in relation to PTSD gives us better insight into the kinds of medical interventions (surgeries, medicines, etc) that might be supplied for those who suffer. ...

Realistically, many traumas are simply unavoidable, but where we can limit exposure to predicted traumatic experiences, we need to.....

Limitations

Whereas soldiers often report greater symptoms of anxiety and hyperarousal, victims of rape more frequently report depression. The presentation of such a wide variety of symptoms and the many different causes of PTSD makes it especially difficult to generalize research findings to all of those individuals affected by it....

Studies that involve children may be further limited by language delays as a result of the traumatic event (Dexter, 2011). Additionally, children are especially susceptible to further traumatization when engaging in activities that seek to understand....

Finally, the very fact that memory is so often affected by PTSD makes the exact study of it a huge challenge... For this reason, longitudinal studies and the involvement of family members in the research process might be especially helpful.

Conclusion

The findings of research specific to PTSD give us much greater insight on the daily experiences of individuals who suffer from it. Advances in medical technology allow us ample opportunities to better understand the ways in which the brain itself is affected, and through continued studies, hopefully a medical intervention will soon be available. Until then, evolving studies in the field of psychology shape our delivery of therapeutic interventions. Because degree of trauma, age of exposure, and symptoms vary so widely, we cannot assume that a diagnosis of PTSD will dictate the same kind of therapeutic intervention for everyone, and we must be mindful of

References

(Be sure you're using APA-style referencing – use the resources I've provided or Google 6th Edition of APA-style referencing).