

Media Project

Media often portrays mental health issues but, as a good psychologist, you need to examine how accurate those portrayals are in the media, thinking about the far reaching consequences of those portrayals. For this project, you will need to view a movie that includes at least one character with a mental illness. This project needs to include the following:

- Paper (total of 6 pages with title page and reference section)
 - **Title Page**
 - **Synopsis:** Half page objective summary of the movie. This is not an opinion section—watch pronoun usage – it is simply an overview of the movie. Please use your own thoughts, and NOT an outside source. If an outside source is used, it must be cited.
 - **Diagnosis and Justification:** This section should be up to a page in length, looking specifically at the character's behavior, symptoms, cognitions, etc. you need to provide a diagnosis. Remember, co-morbidity could occur and you need to acknowledge this concept. In order to better prepare your thoughts, you will use the 5 Axis from DSM-IV to help classify each section. If one section has none, write "No diagnosis". After listing the diagnoses, you will need to justify it by indicating which criteria the character meets (what symptoms does s/he have that are characteristic of the diagnosis given?).
 - **Critique:** You will write a critique of the movie, focusing on how the mental illness is portrayed. Ideas: Does the movie provide an accurate example of the mental illness? If so, what did they get right? If not, how did they inaccurately portray the character's mental illness? If you were directing the movie or writing the script, what would you have done differently to provide a more accurate portrayal? This section will need to be up to a page in length.
 - **Treatment:** If you were a mental health professional, how would you help this character? What therapeutic approach would you take? What theoretical perspective might you use, and what techniques would you try? Would there be any medications you might recommend, or would you not want to use meds? Does this person need individual therapy, group therapy,

hospitalization and inpatient treatment program, institutionalization, family therapy, incarceration or some other kind of treatment? If the character has received treatment in the movie, what did you think of it? If the treatment was effective, why was it so? Was there anything you would have done differently if the treatment used in the movie was not as effective? This section should be a page in length.

- **References**

Movies: Below is a list of movies. If one is not on the list you'd like to use, please discuss it with me first:

- A Beautiful Mind
- As Good as it Gets
- Awakenings
- Fatal Attraction
- Girl Interrupted
- Identity
- Mr. Jones
- Ordinary People
- Suicide Squad
- Rain Man
- Secret Window
- Sybil
- The Woodsman
- Three Faces of Eve
- Silence of the Lambs
- What about Bob
- When a Man Loves a Woman
- Split

Presentation

You will be asked to prepare a PPT presentation about your media project. This presentation needs to follow closely to the major points of your paper, focusing more on summaries of each section. You will also need to show 3 short clips from the movie depicting the character you are examining. On the day of the presentation, you will need to be in more formal attire while presenting to your peers. There will also be the opportunity for Ms. Taylor and your peers to ask you questions regarding your media project. The Media Project will be due during the week of December 13th. The entire project will be worth 200 points.