**Intro Psychology Chapter 18: Serial Killer Assignment**

**Information regarding serial killers**

For this project, you are going to delve into the world of a specific serial killer. Serial killers tend to be white, heterosexual males in their twenties and thirties who are sexually dysfunctional and have low self-esteem. Their methodical rampages are almost always sexual in nature. Their killings are usually part of an elaborate fantasy that builds to a climax at the moment of their murderous outburst. Serial killers generally murder strangers with cooling off periods between each crime. Many enjoy cannibalism, necrophilia and keep trophy-like body parts as mementos of their work. Serial killers are sadistic in nature. Some return to crime scenes or gravesites of their victims to fantasize about their deeds. Many like to insert themselves in the investigation of their crimes and some enjoy taunting authorities with letters or carefully placed pieces of evidence.

Serial killers tend to prey on women and children of their same race. Prostitutes, drifters and hitchhikers are their victims of choice. Some homosexual killers enjoy hunting young boys and gay men. Female serial killers tend to be "black widows" that kill a succession of husbands, lovers, or other family members. They can also be nurses or other medical professionals who become self-appointed "angels of death" murdering babies, elderly, or the desperately ill in a misguided effort to relieve their suffering. Most serial killers grew up in violent households. As youngsters they enjoyed torturing animals, setting fires and were chronic bed-wetters. As adults, many serial killers have some type of brain damage and are addicted to alcohol and/or drugs.

**Project Overview**

You will research the historical attributes of a specific serial killer.

My serial killer is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Research the Serial Killer so that you can answer the interview questions below.  
•       You must answer the questions in 1st Person.  You are answering as if you are the serial killer.    
•       No simple one word answers.  Give details and explanation.    
•       Form: typed paper OR powerpoint OR perform interview w/o reading OR a “20/20-style interview” that you

have recorded.. It is up to you how you wish to complete this assignment. You will need to let me know which

option you choose so I can give you the specific information on how to complete the assignment.  
•       If the person is no longer alive write the interview as if it is in the past and they have not died yet.

**Interview Questions**

1.  Childhood:  Can you please describe your childhood?  Friends, schooling, family relationships? Looking

back now are there specific events that you can remember that may have contributed to you committing

these crimes?  Did you have early indicators of a murderer:  obsession to start fires, animal cruelty, or

bed wetting at an unacceptable age.

2.  Education:  What is the highest level of education that you received?  Did you graduate high school?

Did you go to college?

3.  Work: Can you give us a description of your work history?

4.  Relationships:  Prior to the murders would you say you had a healthy social life? Were you married with

children?  Did you live alone?  Did you have many friends?

5.  Killings:  Can you explain to us the first time you killed?  Who were the victim/victims?  Why did you

select them and where and how did it happen? What was your motivation? What was the nature of your

crimes (how did you kill your victims?) How many people would you admit to killing? What was the time

span for their crimes?

6. Were you ever diagnosed with a mental disorder? If so, what one(s)? Did you ever receive treatment?

How long were you in treatment?

7.  Criminal profilers believe that many serial killers leave a signature at the crime scene.  Can you explain

yours?  If so do you know why you needed to do this?

8. Can you describe how you were eventually captured?  What specific evidence was used to lead to your

arrest?

9. Did you eventually stand trial or did you take a plea bargain?  Were you sentenced to life in prison or did

you receive the death penalty?  When are you scheduled to be executed and how?

