

# **SERIAL KILLER RESEARCH PROJECT**

## **100 Point Summative Assessment**

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" who 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, create a PowerPoint presentation, and then present your report to the class.

Working individually, pick one of the following serial killers and create a Powerpoint document complete with appropriate (non-graphic) images. Do not place too many words on the PowerPoint; it is there for the audience NOT for the presenter. You may use note cards during your presentation.

David Berkowitz	Ian Brady	Myra Hindley
Albert Fish	Wayne Gacy	Wayne Boden
Ed Kemper	Richard Ramirez	David Carpenter
Peter Kurten	Henry Lee Lucas	John Christie
Ed Gein	Albert Desalvo	Eric Cooke
Andrei Chikatilo	Ted Kaczynski	Mary Ann Cotton
Marybeth Tinning	Nannie Doss	Dorothea Puente
Jack the Ripper	Fritz Haarmann	Wayne Williams
Nicolas Claux	Arthur Shawcross	H.H. Holmes

You will have 2 days in the library to work on this project. I recommend you begin researching your serial killer before Monday and use your time in class to create your PowerPoint Presentations.

**Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Library for research and working on PowerPoint

**Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>** – Library for research and working on PowerPoint

**Block Day** – Presentations begin

**Friday** – Presentations

**Exam Block Day** – Presentations **You must be present for the final exam day or you will lose on letter grade.**

The presentation must have specific information about the killer you selecting including:

1. History leading up to the murders
2. Description of the murders (don't need to be too graphic about the details)
3. Capture/discovery
4. Forensic evidence used in the case against the killer
5. Trial/sentencing

**When researching, look for the following:**

Research criminal profiling:

- a. What is the general profile for a serial killer?
- b. What are the types of serial killers?
- c. How does a profile change depending upon the type? Examples?
- d. Describe the typical childhood of a serial killer.
- e. General behavioral progression from pre-crime to post-crime.
- f. Briefly describe how fantasy plays into serial killer crimes.
- g. Describe the biological and environmental factors connected to serial killer behavior.
- h. What types of things are often used by criminologists to build an accurate profile?

Research specific questions about your serial killer:

- a. What was their childhood like?
- b. Were there any precursors? Did childhood behavior reflect problems?
- c. What was their adult life like? Did they finish high school/college? Did they marry? Have children? Were they loners?
- d. Were they ever diagnosed with a mental disorder? Did they ever receive treatment?
- e. What was the nature of their crimes? What was the time span for their crimes? How many victims?
- f. What was their behavior like when they were caught?
- g. Were they found capable to withstand trial?
- h. What were they charged with and sentenced to?
- i. Are they still alive? Or did they die differently than their sentence?

Make sure to include appropriate images (where applicable) and use animation on bullets and slides. You will be graded both on the PowerPoint document and on the presentation itself.

You may include a short video in your PowerPoint presentation. The presentation must be at least 10 minutes in length, but not more than 15 minutes in length. Please put your PowerPoint on a flash drive so presentations will flow more quickly between presenters.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Category	Max. Points	Points Earned	Comments
Minimum 15 slides in PowerPoint	15		
Picture of Serial Killer	5		
4 additional pictures/video clip	10		
Complete answers of main questions (DETAILED description of method or procedures used by killer)	40		
Bibliography (last slide)	5		
Presenters are able to field questions from audience	5		
Presenters demonstrate knowledge at expert-level	5		
Presentation is conversational, rather than "read".	5		
Required time	5		
Productive use of class time	5		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>		

