

Alternative Project Options for Substance-Related Disorder

Students electing not to complete the IceKube simulation have a variety of alternatives to choose from. All involve writing about the bio-psycho-social causes and effects of substance dependence, since that is the major understanding that I hope all students gain from this experience, regardless of its form. Students may propose alternatives not listed here, but they should be approved ahead of time (no later than November 21) by Mrs. Welle.

Research on a Particular Drug/Substance

Student researches a drug (e.g., heroin) or drug class (e.g., barbiturates) and composes a paper summarizing issues related to its use, including:

- Description of at least one BIOLOGICAL factor that contributes to its use (cause) and one BIOLOGICAL effect of the drug.
- Description of at least one PSYCHOLOGICAL factor that contributes to its use (cause) and one PSYCHOLOGICAL effect of the drug.
- Description of at least one SOCIAL factor that contributes to its use (cause) and one SOCIAL effect of the drug.

Roughly two typed pages is an appropriate length, and sources should be appropriately cited.

Personal Reflection

Sometimes students choose not to participate in the IceKube simulation because their lives have been touched by substance dependence in some significant way. If you would prefer to compose a (typed) reflection on that experience, noting the bio-psycho-social effects of substance dependence that you witnessed, you may do so. Note: Like the IceKube simulation, this can be a very meaningful way to address course content, but it is not right for everyone.

*****New in 2014*** TOPSS Essay Competition**

Each year, Teachers of Psychology in Secondary Schools (TOPSS) sponsors a student essay contest. This year's topic happens to concern substance abuse/dependence. [Full contest rules are available here](#), but it requires composing a research paper on the bio-psycho-social factors related to drug use. Cash prizes are awarded to winners.

If you would like to complete a first draft of a contest submission (final version is not due until March 16), you may do so to meet requirements for this project.

All project options (including reflections from IceKube simulation, for students choosing that) will be due on December 4th.