

## Showcase Assessment #14

**Date:**

January 18, 2019

**Subject:**

Research Showcase

**Assessment:**

This past Wednesday, my fellow ISM peers of Frisco ISD and I had the amazing opportunity of having our semester research showcase presentation at The Star. At the showcase, we presented our original work as well as any other research conducted during the fall semester. I presented my original work which was a visual display of the insanity defense and malingering in a simplified manner. I also included some famous examples of defendants whose cases were relevant to legal insanity such as John Hinckley Jr., Kenneth Bianchi (Hillside Strangler), James Holmes (Aurora theater shooting), and a scene from the film *Primal Fear* (1996). Another topic of interest was the Rorschach inkblot tests that had a lot of public and media recognition. I included a few of them on my display board as a hook to gain attention.

I think it helped that I made sure that my board did not give off the impression of forensic science field work, despite “forensic” being in the field title. One common misunderstanding is the reality that forensic psychology is not actually related to true forensics in the way it is in pathology. Although I was prepared to respond and explain to anyone who might have thought this way, it was not the focal point of my work and I did not want to spend too much time on it instead of what I had actually done.

Overall, the evening was wonderful, and I had the opportunity to explore my professionalism while gaining new experiences. I met plenty of great people who either stopped by to invest in my presentation or merely interacted with me for a few moments of the night. I really enjoyed getting to see how everyone reacted to my work and what questions and concerns they typically gravitate towards in regards to my topic. My mentor took the time out of her evening to drive all the way up to Frisco to see all that I had done thus far, which I am forever grateful for. Since meeting with her, I have learned so much, not only regarding the field but also about the career atmosphere and professionalism as a whole.

One fear that I thought I would have to face was the fact that I would be displaying my work in front of everyone else in ISM and to all who came to the event. I think it really helped for me to keep myself from comparing my work and my presentation to other students' work. One quality that all ISM students share is observable talent. Each student has so much potential and

tons to show off about themselves, which can make it quite difficult to find something that distinguishes each individual. Personally, I felt that there was no way for me to take advantage of the opportunity that the ISM experience provided if I did not begin with myself. What I have found that matters the most, in this context, is that I can reflect on my work and be proud of what I have produced. I cannot compare myself to others, because I am my own person and I will inevitably have my own approach. Rather than fueling self-doubt and intimidation, this should only be an indicator of my intrinsic value.