

Deviance research field report

[\[How to submit an assignment\]](#) (Otherwise 0 or -10)

[\[Highlighting and commenting\]](#) (Otherwise -10)



Assignment instructions

As a member of a research team investigating deviant behaviors, imagine we conducted interviews with **four individuals** who had engaged in deviant behavior in the past to gain insights into the underlying reasons for their actions. During this assignment:

- 1) From Table 1, you will choose different deviant behaviors for each participant.
- 2) Describe how the specific deviant behavior took place (make up a story) in their own words. Use quotation marks.
- 3) Explain their deviant behaviors using different deviance theories. Explore how each participant's behavior was informed by a specific theory [\[Deviance II: explaining deviance SLIDES\]](#) and [\[Reading\]](#)

These are the theories you will use (choose four out of five):

- (1) Deviance as illness: medicalization,
- (2) Deviance as rational choice,
- (3) Differential association theory (*deviant subcultures*),
- (4) Differential association theory (*loner deviance*),
- (5) Merton's Strain Theory (**choose one**: Innovation, Ritualism, Retreatism, Rebellion)

Table 1. List of deviant behaviors

Gambling and losing all their assets	Stealing office supplies from work
Shoplifting	Illegally downloading copyrighted material
Engaging in self-harm	Driving under the influence of alcohol
Refusing to eat and losing a dangerous amount of weight.	Participating in illegal street racing
Engaging in acts of eco-terrorism to promote environmentalism	A teacher who only teaches to get a paycheck and doesn't care about making a difference in their students' lives
Participated in gang-related activities	Vandalizing public property
Engaging in cyber attacks against corporations or governments	Engaging in physical fights
Stalking ex partner	Cyberbullying others
Cutting themselves with sharp objects	Engaging in acts of civil disobedience to protest unjust laws or policies
Using insider information to make profitable trades in the stock market	Engaging in credit card fraud
Stealing intellectual property	Hitting themselves to cause injury
Government worker who follows protocol but doesn't care about serving the public or improving society	Refusing to participate in the workforce
Using a fake ID to purchase alcohol	Escaping reality through excessive use of video games, social media, or other forms of entertainment
Homelessness	Cheating on a test
Starting a commune or alternative lifestyle community	Selling drugs

Example
Deviant behavior (do not use this one): Engaging in credit card fraud
Which theory informs?: Deviance as rational choice
What did the participant tell you?: <i>"I sat at my computer, heart pounding with anticipation. I had just stolen someone's credit card information and was ready to make my first purchase. I knew what I was doing was illegal, but the thrill of getting away with it was too much to resist. I had read about others who had made thousands of dollars this way and I wanted in on the action. I made sure to use a VPN and a fake name and address to hide my tracks. The purchase went through without a hitch and I felt invincible. Over the next few weeks, I made several more purchases, each time feeling more confident in my abilities to avoid getting caught. But eventually, my luck ran out and I was arrested. Looking back, I know it was a stupid decision, but at the time, the potential rewards outweighed the risks."</i>
How does this theory inform this specific deviant behavior?: The deviance as rational choice theory can help explain this behavior. Credit card fraud is seen as a way to make quick and easy money. The participant weighed the potential rewards against the risks and decided that the benefits were worth it. They made calculated decisions about how to carry out the fraud to minimize the chances of getting caught, using tactics like using a VPN and fake information. This theory suggests that individuals engage in deviant behavior when the rewards for doing so outweigh the potential penalties. In this case, the allure of financial gain was greater than the risk of being caught and punished.

Rubric for full credit

- 1) Different deviant behaviors from Table 1 are used for each participant.
- 2) A relevant theory is chosen.
- 3) Participants' stories are written in detail (as shown in example), in first-person language and in quotation marks.
- 4) The relevant theory is explained in detail in connection with the participants' stories.

Answers

Participant 1
Deviant behavior (from table 1) (1 points):
Which theory informs? (1 points):
What did the participant tell you? (10 points): “ “
How does this theory inform this specific deviant behavior? (13 points):

Participant 2
Deviant behavior (from table 1) (1 points):
Which theory informs? (1 points):
What did the participant tell you? (10 points): “ “
How does this theory inform this specific deviant behavior? (13 points):

Participant 3
Deviant behavior (from table 1) (1 points):
Which theory informs? (1 points):
What did the participant tell you? (10 points): “ “
How does this theory inform this specific deviant behavior? (13 points):

Participant 4
Deviant behavior (from table 1) (1 points):
Which theory informs? (1 points):
What did the participant tell you? (10 points): “ “
How does this theory inform this specific deviant behavior? (13 points):