

Product Proposal

Introduction and Statement of Purpose

So far, I have learned many critical components of psychological testing/multiscale inventories and extended detail regarding the insanity defense. I've acquired a basic understanding of the responsibilities understood in the field of forensic psychology. My next goal is to dig deeper into the realm of competency evaluations and the remaining psychological tests used on a weekly basis by forensic psychologists.

For my final product, I plan to create a "mock" assessment for relevant psycholegal questions as well as diagnoses and other components. In this assessment, I will incorporate the use of psychological tests, malingering detection strategies, and a deeper understanding of each of the standards used in each process. My general purpose is to layout examples of each element of forensic evaluations in practice.

Review of Skills and Research

Along with the research I have already completed over the insanity defense and the minimal research into multiscale inventories, I will need an expansion on the psychological tests research and an in depth understanding of the process of evaluating competency to stand trial. The competency aspect will need to include its historical background and/or evolution, the legal standards that are applied, and the multiscale inventories that are used to assess competency.

I will need to review the basics and statistics behind the multiscale inventories which I will collect information on in my own time and then bring them to discussion with Dr. Correa. I will also read up on the work on the evidence-based psychological tests in recent years. In addition to collecting all of this acquired information, I will work to apply it into practical matters.

Methodology

Reporting on the research and information is the most essential aspect of my work. Therefore, I will be spending plenty of time collecting data from both primary and secondary sources. I will work with Dr. Correa on case studies and learning from her own firsthand experience. Once all of the content and data is established, I will then transition into working on developing the mock-evaluation. Since I am merely a high school student, I will not have access to actual defendants' profiles and their diagnoses. For this reason, I will pull inspiration from real case studies, television, and film.

Materials

Since my work will be done on paper, I do not expect things to get too costly. In the case that I choose to layout my work in the design of a publication or collection, which will depend on further research, I will presumably need to bind my work together which I will need to have access to. I will be using the Clinical Assessment of Malingering and Deception for a large portion of my secondary research. Dr. Correa and I decided it would be helpful to have access to actual publications of the various multiscale inventories.

Utilization of Higher Level Thinking Skills

My proposed product is essentially applying my foundational understandings of forensic psychology to true examples. I will need to do this in a way that is not in violation of the ethical code of conduct. I have no authority to diagnose anyone, or even the qualifications. That being said, I will challenge myself to practice working with my newly found insight in order to make myself familiar with the process for later on. Additionally, the multiscale inventories are heavily based on statistics and I am therefore required to connect my knowledge and understanding of statistical vocabulary and application to these tests that I plan on studying this semester.

Conclusions

I anticipate a challenge of producing my own mock case which require me to pull data and inspiration from those already in existence. Although I am walking into an area of advanced application, I will have the guidance of my mentor who can help steer me in the right direction and keep me from getting ahead of myself. I want to learn the basics of psychological tests and their application to forensic settings, as they serve as one of the most credible and reliable sources of assessing psychopathology, given they are conducted responsibly and properly.

Calendar outline

Week 1:

- Discuss basics of competency evaluations

Week 2:

- Continue studying competency

Week 3:

- Review relevant testing (ECST-R)

Week 4:

- Review my write-up with Dr. Correa and get corrections/suggestions

Week 5:

- Begin studying the basics of other texts

Week 6:

- Assess the DSM-5 diagnoses

Week 7:

- Write up all details of evaluating risk assessment

Week 8:

- Reviewing relevant testing

Week 9:

- Evaluate and reflect on any missing gaps in my direct learning horizon

Week 10:

- Applying psychological tests to case studies and practice assessment

Week 11:

- Working to create individual case

Week 12:

- Cont. of Week 11

Week 13:

- Putting all information together in a formal display