

Serial killer speech



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COM 103: Public Speaking

OUTLINE

Specific Goal: To inform my audience about the psychology of the serial killer.

Introduction:

A. There are possibly 20-100 of them active in the U. S.

B. They are sociopathic, psychopathic monsters that hide behind the masks of normal everyday people.

C. They have no conscience, no empathy, no feelings or remorse. Only apathy. A dark empty world where the only sense of satisfaction and feeling comes from taking the life of another.

D. What causes this type of behavior? What could make someone commit such grisly crimes for the sake of mere pleasure?

E. Today I will be talking to you about the psychology of the serial killer.

F. We have all been exposed to these types of people, whether it be the news, movies , tv shows, or old campfire stories when we were younger.

1. These people are very real and walk among us unnoticed. We are unaware what lies behind their mask of sanity. G. I will briefly describe to you how

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someone can develop these tendencies: childhood trauma, brain injuries, and/or predestined traits. (Let us first begin with what is believed to be the main cause: homelife.)

I. According to modern criminology

the biggest factor in the development of homicidal tendencies comes from a child's upbringing.

A. In nearly every case, the killer was raised in a severely dysfunctional and abusive household; physical, mental, sexual, or all.

B. Raising a child in such an environment can cause them to view the world as a hateful place where human relations are based upon power, suffering, and humiliation.

C. In homes where harsh discipline was viewed as a way of " toughening up" the child, they developed fantasies of domination and control.

Fantasies that would be carried out later in life.

D. Mothers are usually to blame:

1. According to Steven Egger in his book Killers Among Us, " Serial murderers are frequently found to have unusual or unnatural relationships with their mothers. "

2. Ed Gein's religiously fanatical, notorious mother instilled in her son that women were vessels of sin and caused disease (Psycho's Norman Bates was based on Ed Gein)

3. Charles Manson's mother constantly belittled him as a child and would send him to school dressed as a girl for punishment. E. We can't always point the finger at crazy mothers:

- The Boston Strangler, Albert DeSalvo, was sold off as a slave by his father while his mother searched for him for days.
- John Wayne Gacy's father verbally abused him daily and even shot his dog for punishment. (However not every person that comes from a terrible upbringing turns homicidal, which brings me to my next point:)

II. Frontal lobe brain injuries.

A. The prefrontal cortex, which makes up 25% of the brain, acts as a controlling mechanism for anger and aggression.

B. The frontal lobe is considered responsible for much of the behavior that makes possible stable and adequate social relations. Self-control, planning, judgment, the balance of individual versus social needs, and many other essential functions are controlled by the frontal structures of the brain.

(Rutigliano)

- It only makes sense that this could be a contributing factor in habitual murders.
- A study done at four universities found that individuals with damage to the frontal lobe had abnormal social emotions in real life. The study showed they lacked empathy and compassion.

C. There is evidence that many serial killers suffered head injuries. Bobby Joe Long (motorcycle accident), Earle Nelson (childhood accident), Randy Kraft (fell down concrete steps), Albert Fish (fell from tree), David Berkowitz (auto

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accident), Kenneth Bianchi (fell off jungle gym), Raymond Fernandez (steel hatch cover on freighter fell on his head) and Carl Panzram (head infection where he was operated on at home on his kitchen table) are just a few.

(There are those rare cases on the other hand, where an individual is raised in a normal household and suffers no trauma to the brain at all. They were loved by their parents like you and me yet something still went wrong. Are some people just predestined to become killers? Were they hardwired for murder since birth?)

III. The natural born killer.

A. He seemed to have everything going for him - education, looks, a fair amount of money. He graduated from Washington with a degree in psychology and in the summer of 1973 was accepted into the University of Utah Law School. His childhood was without serious disfunction except for his close grandfather who had a violent temper.

- This man was Ted Bundy, one of the most notorious serial killers in America.
- Even at an early age Ted occasionally exhibited disturbing behavior.

His Aunt Julia recalled awakening one day from a nap to find herself surrounded by knives from the kitchen; her three-year-old nephew was standing by the bed, smiling.

B. Another example similar to this would be that of Jeffrey Dahmer.

- In his book *A Father's Story*, Lionel Dahmer looks for answers to his own son's evil. Lionel believes that Jeffrey's mother's hysteria and

psychosomatic illnesses during pregnancy could possibly be responsible.

- Young Jeffrey was captivated by a pile of animal bones, which only seems macabre after the adult Jeffrey's deadly deeds.

At the time, Lionel viewed it as normal curiosity.

IV. In conclusion, this was only a brief look into the mind of the serial killer.

1. We know some of the possible causes: trauma at any early age, receiving frontal lobe brain injury, or just a natural born killer.
2. What we don't know is how many of them are really at large, and if one may be living next to you...
3. In the words of Ted Bundy, " We serial killers are your sons, we are your husbands, we are everywhere. "

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