

Criminology Media Project

As part of your extended learning, you will be expected to complete a series of reports about criminology in the media. There are many TV Shows, Films, Books, Magazines and Websites about Criminology - it will be your task to watch, read and research different areas of Criminology and write a short report about each of them.

Below is not an extensive list - but it should help to get you started. There will be extra credit for those students who go above and beyond in this task.

FILMS

12 Angry Men (U)

Story line: A jury deliberates behind closed doors on the fate of someone accused of murder. One lone dissenter within the jury (played by Henry Fonda) pleads a compelling case to convince the other eleven jurors that this is not a clear-cut case, unveiling and challenging prejudices and preconceptions as they arise in the debate.

The Stanford Prison Experiment (15)

Story line: A film adaptation of a psychological experiment by Phillip Zimbardo into societal roles. Zimbardo assigns college students in America the role of either a prisoner or prison guard and places them in a mock prison to simply watch how they behave. What do you think will happen? What would you do in this situation?

Bowling for Columbine (15)

2002 American documentary film written, produced, directed, and narrated by Michael Moore. The film explores what Moore suggests are the primary causes for the Columbine High School massacre in 1999 and other acts of gun violence. He focuses on the background and environment in which the massacre took place and some common public opinions and assumptions about related issues. The film also looks into the nature of violence in the United States.

TV SHOWS/DOCUMENTARIES

Amanda Knox (Year 13 ready)- first watch the documentary on netflix then watch the BBC documentary on youtube- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=erla7Ley4Tw>
Record your views on the case following each documentary- did you notice any changes?

Any of the documentaries in the BBC series- Love and Hate crime
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p05r3vw3/episodes/player>

The Mind Explained - Netflix

Catfish- always on MTV!

Killer: In the Mind of Aaron Hernandez - Netflix

Ted Bundy- Netflix

The Confession Killer- Netflix

I am a killer - Netflix

This might be something you wouldn't have thought of as a first pick, but psychologically, this is a very interesting topic. In I am a Killer, criminals who have received the death penalty relay the events for which they have been convicted from their own perspective. Speaking from death row, these criminals give you a very different side to the stories you hear about on the news. Along with the stories, the events are re-enacted without being too graphic. Do these killers feel guilty? Some do, but not all respond in a way you might want to see (with remorse).

Some come across as (surprisingly?) regular people, while others seem closer to the "stereotypical" image you may have of a murderer. This can make the series unsettling at times, but also turns it into a very compelling watch. I am a Killer doesn't veer either way of the judgement, you're left to make up your own mind about what has happened. How guilty do you think they are? It's a well thought-out series, and definitely interesting for anyone interested in psychology. Especially for fans of criminology, forensic psychology and social psychology; this is a good one.

Mindhunter - Netflix (full series)

This one is topically related to I am a Killer, but is set in the late 1970s. As you may know, compared to all the big fields of science – chemistry, physics, biology etc. – psychology is quite young. During the time the series is set criminal psychology and profiling were just about starting to gain serious interest. The premise of the series revolves around FBI agents and a psychologist from the FBI's behavioural science unit who interview serial killers in the hopes of gaining insight as to why these people turned out this way. They hope to be able to apply this knowledge to solving future cases. (A great series, first couple of episodes are slow but then it gets really intense)

True Detective

IMDB describes the series as 'seasonal anthology series in which police investigations unearth the personal and professional secrets of those involved, both within and outside the law'. It's often described as a dark, brooding and brilliant detective drama, with an interest in the minds of all those involved in the crime. It switches between present times and flashbacks, and has garnered a lot of praise not only for its storylines, but also for the dramatic and thoughtful way it is shot.

VIDEOS

Type criminology into youtube and take your pick. There are TED Talks, CrashCourse videos and so much more. If you can, copy and paste the URL into your Criminology Media Project Review. Below are a few videos of specific events which are interesting and relevant to the criminology course we study.

Mods & Rockers <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFL54R9g5Io>

Jamie Bulger https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=jamie+bulger+documentary

There are a number on this case.

Young gunman Panorama <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3O3bh59dRA>

Hillsborough - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MU5b7kfwVKA> (For Year 13)

OJ Simpson - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ugdTdHiVfYI&t=3s>

if you have Netflix, please watch <https://www.netflix.com/gb/title/80083977> (For Year 13)

Damilola Taylor - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JA8669b7gKk&t=2s> (For Year 13)

Stephen Lawrence <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZsHwKPE0mjU&t=28s> – (For Year 13)

Timothy Evans (10 Rillington Place) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YSL_zNlxM-k (For Year 13)

Sally Clark <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7F03Wf3lvzs> (For Year 13)

Babies behind bars https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nErmW89_hr0 (Fr Year 13)

Step-by-Step Guide to How to Write a Film Review <https://edusson.com/blog/how-to-write-movie-review>

Beginnings are always the hardest. This is the point where you set the pace and determine how to approach this assignment in the most efficient manner. Here are some useful tips to kick-start the movie review writing process:

- Watch the movie or documentary with your full focus and take notes of both major and minor events and characters. It's a mistake to rely on the power of your memory only, there's always something we overlook or forget.
- Carry out a thorough research. Watching the movie isn't enough, research is equally important. Look for details such as the name of the filmmaker and his/her motivation to make that film or documentary work, locations, plot, characterisation, historic events that served as an inspiration for the movie (if applicable). Basically, your research should serve to collect information that provides more depth to the review.
- Draft an outline that you will follow to write the review in a concise and cohesive fashion
- Include examples for claims you make about the movie. Where the plot is relevant to criminology, mention an example of a situation or scene when that was evident.
- Analyse the movie after you watch it. Don't start working on the review if you aren't sure you understand the film. Evaluate the movie from beginning to an end. Re-watch it, if necessary, if you find some parts confusing. Only when you understand events that happened on the screen will you find it easier to create the review.