

Good and Evil

Why are some people “evil” whereas others are not?

Have you ever wondered why it is that some people are evil or do evil things, when there are also a lot of people who do nothing close to that bad? How can it be that some people go through life without getting involved in any sort of negative or bad things, when other people seem to make decisions that are viewed as evil?

The Assignment:

This assignment gets you to look at and evaluate how to answer this question using two prominent perspectives from Psychology that have been referenced throughout the course: **biological, cognitive, behavioral, psychodynamic, evolutionary, and humanistic.**

Your job is to:

- 1) select 2 perspectives from the preceding list
- 2) from the article source list provided below, list at least four sources, two from each perspective). They can be sources within the articles. Summarize each of the sources. Document your sources in APA style. **You should be sure that your in-text citations and reference page are done in APA style.**
- 3) write a paper (APA style, 2-3 pages, double-spaced, 1” margins, 12 pt font) integrating both perspectives, presenting a way of answering the question, and selecting which perspective you agree with more and why.

Some things to keep in mind: you will need to thoroughly explain how someone working within each of the perspectives you chose views the issue and how, according to the perspectives, an answer to the question would be sought. Also, think about the following questions as you write your paper: do you agree with one or the other perspective? Why? Be sure to support your perspective with evidence you have collected from your sources. Lastly, include the conclusions that can be drawn from the two perspectives and the implications that those conclusions have for psychologists and society at large.

Steps:

1. Explain how each perspective would view the issue
2. Using each perspective, explain how the question could be answered.
3. Do you agree (or disagree) with one (or both) perspective’s approach to this issue.
4. Provide citations to support your choice/opinion(s).
5. Draw the conclusions that would result for each perspective.
6. If the conclusions are true, how do they affect psychologists and/or society?

Schemata of steps:

1.		Explain		
2.	Perspective 1		Perspective 2	
3.	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
4.	Support		Support	
5.	Conclusions		Conclusions	
6.	Implications		Implications	

After you write your essay, save it in a Word or pdf file. Click on the Critical Thinking Assignment Link (the title of this assignment). In the next webpage, scroll down to where it reads "Assignment Submission" and click on "Browse My Computer." Navigate to wherever you've saved your essay, and select the file to upload it to Blackboard. Don't forget to click SUBMIT.

In addition to content, students will be graded on preparation and planning, use of APA style, written product, level of engagement, and overall attitude. Refer to the Grading Rubric for specific criteria. Your paper will be worth a total of 100 points.

Approved Sources: Although there is a great deal of information on the Internet regarding this subject, much of it is not valid and/or reliable. Please know that anyone can post anything about anything on the Internet. This information could be inaccurate, biased, or simply opinion. For this reason, the following sources have been chosen because they come from peer reviewed journals and/or reliably proven sources. You may choose to use any of the following sources. They must be referenced in APA style.

1. Social: <http://www.psychologicalscience.org/index.php/publications/observer/2001/may-june-01/good-and-evil-and-psychological-science.html>
2. Humanistic: <http://www.allaboutworldview.org/humanist-psychology.htm>
3. <http://www.apa.org/monitor/oct04/goodbad.aspx>
4. Learned: <http://www.markedbyteachers.com/as-and-a-level/psychology/is-evil-learned-or-innate-behaviour-discuss.html>
5. Biological: <http://rinr.fsu.edu/spring96/features/evil.html>
6. Cognitive: <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/psychological-power-satan/>
7. Psychodynamic vs Humanism: You will need to copy and paste the following address into your browser:
http://www.academia.edu/7304762/A_Critical_Comparison_of_the_Psychoanalytic_and_Humanistic_Theory