

PSYC 100 Lab: A Case Study in Schizophrenia

This lab will give you the opportunity to analyze the behavior of a real person suffering from schizophrenia. You will watch a video of a young man named Gerald who displays many of the classic symptoms of schizophrenia.

Instructions for Doing the Lab:

Click on the link to the lab: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gGnl8dqEoPQ>

(The link is also on the class web page.)

Watch the video and TAKE NOTES ON WHAT YOU SEE. Pay special attention to the symptoms that Gerald exhibits. When you are writing your lab report, feel free to go back and view the video again on your own.

You should use your textbook as a resource for writing this lab, and it will be helpful if you have read the schizophrenia section of the chapter before watching the video.

Instructions for Writing the Lab Report:

Begin your lab report by describing the most common symptoms of schizophrenia and explaining how psychiatrists and psychologists use these symptoms to diagnose schizophrenia.

Next, write an essay in which you select four specific behaviors that Gerald exhibits and explain how each behavior illustrates a symptom of schizophrenic behavior. Also describe your personal reactions as you watched the video. Did the video make you feel sympathetic to Gerald or angry at him? Which one of his behaviors was most memorable for you, and why do you think this as the case? How did observing his behavior affect you emotionally? Did you feel excited, sad, disgusted, intrigued, or something else while you were watching it? Does watching the behavior of a person like Gerald make you *more* or *less* interested in a career as a therapist?

Feel free to use the essay as a tool for exploring your feelings and ideas about mental illness.