Serial Killers

Brooke Alba  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Natalie Wittter  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Lizabeth Kaeb  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Alison Novakow  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Daryll Brown, Faculty Advisor  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Follow this and additional works at: [http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc](http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc)

---

Brooke Alba; Natalie Wittter; Lizabeth Kaeb; Alison Novakow; and Daryll Brown, Faculty Advisor, "Serial Killers" (April 14, 2012). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. Paper 1.  
http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2012/posters/1

---

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by The Ames Library, the Andrew W. Mellon Center for Curricular and Faculty Development, the Office of the Provost and the Office of the President. It has been accepted for inclusion in Digital Commons @ IWU by the faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.  
©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.
Serial Killers
Brooke Alba, Lizabeth Kaeb, Alison Novakow, Natalie Witter and Dr. Darryl Brown*

Business Administration, Illinois Wesleyan University

Purpose:
- Explore contribution of nature and nurture to the making of a serial killer.
- Use results of research to draw conclusions.
- Use conclusions to help better society.

Literature Review
- Books:
  - *The Psychology of Criminal Conduct* by D.A. Andrew.
  - *Born Killers: Childhood Secrets of the World’s Deadliest Serial Killers* by Christopher Berry-Dee.
  - *A Child Called "It"* by David J. Pelzer.
- Academic Journal Articles:
  - "Criminal Destiny: Nature Meets Nurture" by B. Bower.
  - "The Search For A Murder Gene" by Michael D. Lemonick.
  - "Heinous Spaces, Perfidious Places: The Sinister Landscapes of Serial Killers" by Barney Warf.

Methodology
- Used various forms of media to acquire background knowledge on the subject.
- Utilized many different resources from experts on this subject.
- Looked at the childhoods of three well-known serial killers.

Analysis
- Possibility of a genetic predisposition to violence.
- The home life of the three serial killers contributed to their negative adult decisions.
- Not all childhood abuse cases result in serial killers.

Conclusion
- Nature has a small impact on an individual’s tendency to become a serial killer.
- Nurture has the greatest affect on individuals.
- Home life and environment are the most influential aspects of nurture.
- A large amount of responsibility is placed on society to prevent the molding of serial killers and help those who have violent tendencies.