

Annotated Bibliography

Student's Name

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Research Question: Are Youth with a strong sense of self-efficacy less likely to be involved in juvenile delinquent behavior?

Hypothesis: Higher levels of self-efficacy will be associated with lower levels of delinquency behavior among African American youth.

Chung, H. L., Mulvey, E. P., & Steinberg, L. (2011). Understanding the school outcomes of juvenile offenders: An exploration of neighborhood influences and motivational resources. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 40(8), 1025-1038.

In the article, the authors explain the developmental and criminology theory; juvenile offenders tend to perform poorly academically compared to their peers who have not been through the justice system. Also, the article focuses on the importance of having academic goals and expectations. The study looks into how academic goals and expectations influence outcomes and tests the theory that communities and neighborhoods impact perception and opportunities for male juvenile offenders. The researchers study integrated neighborhoods and assess individual black, Hispanic, and white male juvenile offenders in a bid to assess their academic performance. The study conducted by the researchers is relevant to my research question because it focuses on the goals and aspirations of youths in regards to academics and occupation. The research also focuses on the context and environment in which these goals and aspirations develop. The study is an important source; the research findings support the work done by other scholars like Bandura and Eccles. Evidence of teenagers adjusting to education shows an optimistic future and supports my research.

Mickelson, R. (1990). The attitude-achievement paradox among black adolescents. *Sociology of Education*, 63, 44-61.

The article focuses on important issues in education for blacks, specifically the paradox of keeping a consistently positive attitude but having poor academic performance. The study is concerned with how material realities and the opportunities available such as lower pay for women, fewer jobs, and racial discrimination, shape the perceptions of teenagers. These realities impact the teenagers' value of schooling and can affect their academic behavior. The theoretical framework of this study is relevant to the research question. There is little evidence that students of color perform poorly in school, drop out more often, and achieve lesser than their white peers (Coleman et al. 1966; Gottfredson 1981; Kerckhoff and Campbell 1977; Ogbu 1978; Patchen 1982; Porter 1974; Portes and Wilson 1976). The research tested Ogbu's thesis and determined that lower achievement of people of color is partially because the students feel that, for people like them, academic efforts and credentials are not rewarded in the same way as for their white peers. This connects with self-efficacy, which plays a major role in how individuals approach challenges and set goals. The research findings reveal the attitude of youth of color and that the root of the paradox is an inaccurate conceptualization of their attitude towards education. The article also shows that students of color hold a different attitude, towards schooling, from white students. Students of color feel that education does not always result in opportunities, while white students feel that education is the key to opportunities.

Sampson, R. J., Raudenbush, S. W., & Earls, F. (1997). Neighborhoods and violent crime: A multilevel study of collective efficacy. *Science*, 277, 918–924.

This article argues that the crime rate in a neighborhood is determined by its social and organizational characteristics. The ability of neighborhoods to realize common

values and maintain social control determines how peaceful or violent the neighborhood is. Social control is a response to socially deviant behavior and is usually in the form of regulations that people follow voluntarily or are forced to conform by institutions such as the criminal justice system. The research is relevant to my study because it is based on the link between neighborhood social composition and crime rate. The study determined that there is a relationship between the social compositions of neighborhoods, violence, homicides, and crime in general. Collective efficacy is an important element and a reliable measurement for surveys that target neighborhoods.

Schunk, D. H. (1991). Self-efficacy and academic motivation. *Educational Psychologist*, 26, 207–231.

The article focuses on academic motivation that leads to self-efficiency; how individuals judge their abilities to perform certain actions. After studying the self-efficiency theory and conducting research, there is evidence that setting expectations can influence behavior, direction, effort, and persistence (Bandura, 1986; Locke & Latharn, 1990; Weiner, 1985). The article discusses academic motivation that is drawn from self-efficacy. According to the article, self-efficacy refers to how individuals judge their abilities to organize and execute courses of action required to achieve certain outcomes (Bandura, 1986, p. 391). Although the article does not discuss juvenile delinquency, it is relevant to the research question because it has evidence of the role of self-efficacy in academic motivation.

Wilkinson, D. L., Beaty, C. C., & Lurry, R. M. (2009). Youth Violence—Crime or Self-Help? Marginalized Urban Males' Perspectives on the Limited Efficacy of the Criminal Justice System to Stop Youth Violence. *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 623(1), 25-38.

The research focuses on studying and examining crimes that the youth is involved in, how they perceive personal safety in their neighborhoods, police efficiency, the justice system, use of violence to solve conflicts, and the impact of black self-help theory. According to Black (1993), when the law fails, crime becomes a social norm. Many people in the minority communities commit criminal offenses in pursuit of justice; they believe that they are morally upright and act in self-help. These individuals are forced to take justice into their own hands because neither the criminal justice system nor the police is willing to do their job of reducing violence in their neighborhoods. According to self-help themes, most minority youths feel justified to commit crimes because the systems have failed them by allowing violence in their neighborhoods.

References

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