

Relationship between Psychology and Psychiatry: Use of Venn Diagrams

In this activity, students are required to examine the relationship between psychology and psychiatry.

Using either class discussion, think-pair-share or group work, students should determine the similarities between these two professions. Students should then either write a summary statement or dot point notes explaining the identified similarities in the middle of the Venn diagram where the two circles overlap. Students should then identify the main differences between psychology and psychiatry. Students should identify the key differences then write an explanation from each perspective in the respective circle (e.g. in the 'Psychology' circle students may write 'unable to prescribe medications to treat mental illness' and may write 'able to prescribe medications to treat mental illnesses' in the 'Psychiatry' circle).

Once the Venn diagram is completed, students may be asked to conduct a debate as to which profession is more effective/necessary in the treatment of mental illness or present one viewpoint (e.g. Psychology and its contribution to the understanding of human behaviour) to the class.

Note: This graphic organiser and activity can be adapted to suit any topic in Psychology which requires students to look at different ways of explaining/viewpoints in psychological. Other suggested topics for this kind of activity include:

- influence of heredity and environmental factors on psychological development
- non-scientific vs psychological explanations of human behaviour
- Gibson and Walk's study (1960) and Campos et al. (1992)
- *A tri-venn diagram examining: the psyche as informed by Aristotle vs mind/brain dualism as informed by Descartes vs consciousness as informed by William James*
- pro- and anti-social behaviour
- visual sensation and visual perception

Related Key Skills

Inquire and investigate scientifically

- work independently and collaboratively as appropriate and within identified research constraints;

Apply psychological understandings

- use research literature to demonstrate how psychological concepts and theories have developed over time;
- process and interpret information, and make connections between concepts;
- apply understandings to both familiar and new contexts;

Communicate psychological information and understandings

- communicate psychological information, ideas and research findings accurately and effectively;
- use communication methods suitable for different audiences and purposes;
- use scientific language, conventions and referencing of information sources appropriate to the medium of communication.

Psychology vs Psychiatry

