

Serial killers can be categorized into four main types based on their motives and are classified as organized or disorganized. Classify the motive types with the motives ----- >

- **Visionary:** The killer believes they are being directed to kill by a voice or vision
- **Mission-oriented:** The killer kills to eliminate a specific group of people
- **Hedonistic:** The killer kills for the pleasure of the act
- **Power/control:** The killer enjoys controlling a helpless victim



THE ORGANIZED KILLER

This type of serial killer is the most difficult to identify and capture. They are usually highly intelligent and well organized to the point of being meticulous. Every detail of the crime is planned out well in advance, and the killer takes every precaution to make sure they leave no incriminating evidence behind. It is common for this type of psychopath to watch potential victims for several days to find someone they consider to be a good target. Once the victim is chosen, the killer will kidnap them, often through some sort of ploy designed to gain their sympathy and take them to another location to commit the murder. Once the person has been killed, the perpetrator will usually take precautions to ensure the body is not found until they want it to be. A criminal like this usually takes great pride in what they consider to be their "work" and tend to pay close attention to news stories about their deeds. One of their motivating factors may be to stump the law enforcement officers who are trying to solve their crime.

<https://www.crimemuseum.org/crime-library/serial-killers/types-of-serial-killers/>

THE DISORGANIZED KILLER

These individuals rarely plan out the deaths of their victims in any way. Most often, the people they kill are in the wrong place at the wrong time. This type of serial killer appears to strike at random whenever an opportunity arises. They take no steps to cover up any signs of their crime and tend to move regularly to avoid being captured. Disorganized killers usually have low IQ's and are extremely antisocial. They rarely have close friends or family, and do not like to stay in one place for too long. These killers are prone to have no recollection of their deeds, or to confess that they were motivated by voices in their heads or some other imaginary source.

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SERIAL KILLER TERMS

Motive is the motivations behind serial murder which can include anger, thrill, financial gain, attention seeking, and/or sexual gratification.

Modus Operandi typically includes actions that are necessary for the completion of the crime. It is a serial killer's specific way of doing things.

Criminal Signature describes actions that are unnecessary and serve only for the criminal's emotional and psychological gratification. It is how a serial killer achieves their criminal fantasies (often violent)

Calling Card is an object or theatrics left behind at a crime scene as a way of taunting police, claiming responsibility, or fulfilling portions of a criminal signature.

In your groups, discuss how these terms are interconnected in serial murder crimes.

**Why do you think
these three
behaviors might be
predictors of serial
killing behavior?**

**Bedwetting
Hurting Animals
Arson**



TRUE

or

FALSE

Mass murder is defined by murders with one incident

Serial killers are only motivated by sex.

All serial murderers travel and operate interstate.

A large portion of serial killers are white males

Serial killers cannot stop killing.

All serial killers are insane.

All caught serial killers are given the death penalty

Serial killers want to get caught.

All serial killers take trophies.

Most serial killers are male.

Most children serial murders are one incident.

A spree killer does not have a cooling off-period.

Most mass murder ends with the perpetrators suicide.