

Out of class assignment – Article: Dangerous Minds by Malcolm Gladwell

1. Who is considered to be the “father of criminal profiling”?
2. Describe the difference between “organized” and “disorganized” crimes. How did Douglas and Ressler develop this categorization?
3. According to the British Home Office study conducted in the mid 1990’s, in approximately what percentage of cases did the profile lead to the arrest of a criminal?
4. What, according to Gladwell, is a problem with how Douglas and Ressler developed their typology?
5. Psychologists at the University of Liverpool studied “organized” and “disorganized” characteristics of crime scenes. Describe what their findings were.
6. Is criminal profiling (as practiced by Douglas) science or pseudoscience? Explain your answer in a way that makes it clear you understand what constitutes the scientific method.