

Assignment 2

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September 28, 2016

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Topic

The topic of this study is bullying among adolescents in school contexts.

Research Problem

The research problem that the authors address with this study is the prevalence of bullying and the “psychosomatic, violent, and other negative consequences of bullying” (p. 704). The authors argue that this problem calls for an explanation of the mechanisms that encourage youth to engage in bullying.

Justification

The authors justify the importance of the problem in paragraphs the first two paragraphs of the article. They use many references drawn from existing literature to establish the prevalence of bullying amongst young people in the first paragraph, and to justify the statement that bullying is a problem because it causes negative consequences in the second paragraph.

Deficiency in Knowledge

The authors identify the following deficiency in the existing knowledge at the end of the second paragraph: “many of the aforementioned studies do not fully identify the mechanisms explaining why youth may engage in bullying” (p. 704). The authors point out this specific lack of knowledge as a means to justify their research, which will extend existing research on bullying by focusing on the reasons *why* youth engage in bullying.

Audiences

At the end of the second paragraph, the authors state that knowledge about the mechanisms that explain why youth engage in bullying “would help to devise effective

prevention” (p. 704). Therefore, although specific audiences are not named, it is evident the authors intend to target audiences who are concerned with preventing bullying, such as parents, teachers, principals, and others working within the field of education. I think the introduction would be improved if these potential audiences for the research report were explicitly identified.

Reference

Perkins, H.W., Craig, D. W., & Perkins, J. M. (2011). Using social norms to reduce bullying: A research intervention among adolescents in five middle schools. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, 14(5), 703-722.