

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 (paragraph 01) and the “psychosomatic, violent, and other negative consequences of bullying” (Perkins, Craig, & Perkins, 2011, 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 01–02. They use many references drawn from existing literature to establish the prevalence of bullying amongst young people (paragraph 01) and to justify the statement that bullying is a problem because it causes negative consequences (paragraph 02).

Deficiency in Knowledge

The authors identify the following deficiency in the existing knowledge at the end of paragraph 02: “many of the aforementioned studies do not fully identify the mechanisms explaining why youth may engage in bullying” (Perkins et al., 2011, p. 704). Therefore, this problem is important to study because there is a need to extend existing research on bullying that focuses on the reasons why youth engage in bullying.

Audiences

At the end of paragraph 02, the authors state that knowledge about the mechanisms that explain why youth engage in bullying “would help to devise effective

prevention” (Perkins et al., 2011, p. 704). Therefore, although specific audiences are not named, I believe the authors intend readers to assume that audiences include those 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.

References

- 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.