



Andrea Yates Story – PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES /

The story of Andrea Yates can show how differing psychological perspectives can be used to explain a situation:

In 2001, Andrea Yates a 36-year-old Texas mother drowned each of her five children in the bathtub -one by one - while her husband Rusty was at work. She called her husband that morning to tell him what she had done. She was arrested that day when Rusty called 911.

Review the facts of the case. The major psychological perspectives are listed: (1) *Identify* a perspective that can explain the situation. (2) *Define* the perspective and (3) *Apply* how the perspective *explains* the fact.

Perspectives:

- Biological (Bio),
- Evolutionary (E),
- Cognitive (Cog),
- Psychodynamic (P),
- Humanistic (H),
- Behavioural (Beh), and
- Sociocultural (SC)

Facts about the Andrea Yates case

- 1) Andrea was diagnosed with and was taking *depression* medication. ____
- 2) Andrea believed her children were doomed to perish in the fires of hell. ____
- 3) She believed she had raised them poorly by giving them candy. ____
- 4) Her husband insisted Andrea be left in the hospital and treated after her attempted suicides, but his Blue Cross insurance had run out. ____
- 5) One out of 500 postpartum depressed patients result in psychosis. ____
- 6) The doctor told her husband they should not have more kids; however, they had another child. ____
- 7) Andrea threw out her medication so she could become pregnant. ____
- 8) Andrea routinely heard Satan's voice and was being treated with anti-psychotic medication. ____
- 9) Andrea waited for her husband to leave that day, filled the tub, locked the family dog in a cage, knew murder was a sin, and expected to be punished. ____
- 10) She believed she was a bad mother. ____
- 11) She and her husband believed she would be found not guilty and planned to have more children after the trial. ____
- 12) Some believe that Andrea's deep hidden hatred for her husband was the reason for the behavior as a sort of spousal revenge killing. ____
- 13) Andrea's doctor advised that she never be left alone with the children. She was alone with the children the day they were killed. ____

What is the question out of? /