

Research Statement

In the fall of 2017, I wrote a review paper discussing the genetic causes/risk factors of ADHD for my genetics class (BIO 318) based on my interest in psychological conditions and their physiological causes and effects. I chose ADHD specifically because there is enough research that has been done on this disorder to write a paper on it, but the genetic causes are still not completely clear, making my research very interesting due to all the different articles I would come across. I mainly used Web of Science to find primary articles to include in my paper and my work includes mostly primary sources with a few review articles. All of my sources are peer-reviewed, which is an essential requirement of mine when conducting research, and I have a mix of older articles, for established facts, and newer articles, for novel information.

My initial research question was, "What are the genetic causes of ADHD," but upon exploration of this, I discovered many different answers, none of which were unequivocally the correct one. Therefore, I narrowed down my research to three main neurotransmitter systems that are each clearly involved in ADHD and focused on those in my paper. My paper was peer-reviewed by a classmate who suggested a few things I could add, and I took her suggestions to better my final paper. Also, interestingly enough, when I was creating a PowerPoint to aid in the presentation of my research, I found more information on my topic by simply searching for images to add to the presentation. These became only a few extra sentences in my paper, but added novel and very interesting information about genetic mutations, their effects on the brain, and the overall effect on increasing risk for ADHD.

Overall, I did not seek out much help from librarians or faculty on this paper. However, the research skills that I have learned from past teachers as well as the science librarian at Rollins definitely helped me find the best sources for my paper in the most efficient way. I had one appointment with the genetics tutor regarding my paper, and she helped me narrow down my topic to some important genes using her knowledge on the subject. Also, my classmate who reviewed my paper told me to add more recent articles increase the novel, more relevant information, which helped solidify my research. I believe that collaboration is an amazing resource,

especially regarding research, so I am thankful for all of those who aided my research process.