

“My Dull Brain Was Wrought With Things Forgotten”

A Self Revision

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Writers Note: The two paragraphs are an excerpt from the paper, “The Fortunate Unhappy: A Remedy for Schizophrenia.” This is the first draft for the introduction to the research on oxytocin and Schizophrenia.

Draft 1:

The population consisting of people with crippling mental disorders is ever increasing. Those suffering from schizophrenia are able to discern their own emotions, but can not discern those of others. Oxytocin, a neuropeptide, could be the solution, but the full relation between schizophrenia and the hormone is unknown. Given current research, oxytocin could be used to treat largely overlooked symptoms of schizophrenia.

Schizophrenia is classified as a mental disorder that affects social behaviors and thought process. It is known to cause abnormal movements and psychosis in the form of paranoia and the occurrence of extreme hallucinations. In the symptoms that are constantly overlooked are the lack of visual recognition of emotions (Resource1). People that suffer from schizophrenia often have biased opinions of themselves and others. In some cases they are conceited and sometime suffering from illusions of grandeur and elitism. In other cases they are depressed, self conscious, and have very low self-esteem (Study B).

Writer's Note: The first Introduction is somewhat mediocre. It is not very specific and things don't seem to flow from one idea to the next. The second paragraph jumps directly into a study without letting the reader see a bigger picture of things. The last few sentences of the second paragraph would be better off later in the paper and also, the citations are not correctly titled and do not include page numbers.

Final Draft:

Imagine being in a room surrounded by empty faces of characters speaking with monotonous voices. You may understand the words they say, but you are still baffled by their meaning. Unable to make a connection with anyone, you feel despondent and lost. In reality, the menagerie of unknown was just as normal as any-day interaction, just without the ability to read emotions. Schizophrenia is classified as a mental disorder that affects social behaviors and thought process. It is known to cause abnormal movements and psychosis in the form of paranoia and the occurrences of extreme hallucinations. The scenario in the room filled with ubiquitous confusion represents a symptom of schizophrenia that is constantly overlooked by the public and media; the inability to visually recognize emotions. Those suffering from schizophrenia are able to discern their own emotions, but can not discern those of others, presenting a serious impediment in social and neurological development (Dryden-Edwards 1). People with schizophrenia are not indifferent to feeling; their ability to empathize

Commented [Courtney 1]: The introduction opens with a bland statistic that doesn't focus on the topic at hand or catch the reader's attention.

Commented [Courtney 2]: This is a rather confusing sentence. The parallel structure may be mistaken for repetitiveness.

Commented [Courtney 3]: The solution to what? Unclear-needs more discussion

Commented [Courtney 4]: “Overlooked” seems repetitive here. Who overlooks it? Furthermore, if it is constantly overlooked than it should not be used to define the disease.

Commented [Courtney 5]: Should be “delusions of grandeur.”

Commented [Courtney 6]: This opening is much more appealing and poetic. It flows from one topic to the next very easily. The reader is immediately grabbed into the text in a unique way.

Commented [Courtney 7]: These sentences are better off in text rather than introducing a study.

Commented [Courtney 8]: Answers by whom it is overlooked and also ties real life to the scenario at the beginning.

Commented [Courtney 9]: The statement from earlier is reused, but with more evidence and discussion of its importance.

is just greatly hindered. A possible solution to this social dilemma is a neuropeptide known as Oxytocin, which is currently used to treat similar symptoms in autism (Marazziti 698). Unfortunately, the synthesized hormone has not been widely tested as a treatment for schizophrenia. Subsequently, the complete relation between schizophrenic behavior and oxytocin is yet unknown.

Writer's Note: This final draft is much more natural in content flow. It introduces the main points of the research while supporting previous statements. The opening draws the reader's eye to the page and allows them to see through the eyes of the patient. Instead of making bland assertions, there are claims followed by data and discussion. The last few sentences of the second paragraph were removed and placed in a more suitable context. Overall, the final draft is greatly preferred to the first due to a more interesting and mature development of the subject at hand.

Commented [Courtney 10]: Introduces oxytocin in connection to previous statements.

Commented [Courtney 11]: This last sentence allows the reader to see the overall conflict that will be discussed in the paper.