Assingment 1

1. The population of interest in this scenario would be the students of Columbine High School who were present during the shooting incident.
2. The type of sampling procedure used by the psychologist in this case is convenience sampling. The psychologist took advantage of the availability and willingness of the group of ten students who had already decided to meet and discuss the events. The psychologist did not randomly select the participants from the entire population, but rather selected those who were easily accessible and agreed to participate.
3. Limitations of convenience sampling include potential bias and lack of representativeness. Since participants are selected based on convenience and accessibility, the sample may not accurately represent the larger population. In this case, the psychologist's findings may be limited to the perspectives of a specific group of students who were willing to attend the meeting. The sample may not include a diverse range of opinions or experiences, and it may not capture the perspectives of students who were not part of the group or who may have had different motivations or insights into the event. Therefore, the findings may not generalize to the entire population of Columbine High School students.
4. To obtain a representative sample, the psychologist could have employed a random sampling method. Random sampling ensures that every member of the population has an equal chance of being selected for the study. For example, the psychologist could have obtained a list of all students at Columbine High School and used a random number generator to select participants from the list. This would have increased the likelihood of obtaining a sample that is more representative of the entire student population. Additionally, the psychologist could have aimed to include a diverse range of students in terms of gender, grade level, ethnicity, and involvement in different social groups within the school. By incorporating stratified sampling techniques, the researcher would have been able to capture a more comprehensive understanding of the peer dynamics and motivations behind the violent behavior.