Module Seven Question 1

Approach the clips you have seen from a social scientific perspective. What aspects of art therapy would interest a professional in each of the following fields?

* + Psychology:

From a psychological point of view, the videos showed how art therapy helps people process emotions that are too difficult to put into words, especially when they've experienced trauma. Whether it was a child dealing with the loss of a parent after 9/11 or survivors of natural disasters, art gave them a way to express feelings that would otherwise stay buried. Psychology would focus on how these creative outlets improve mental health, support healing, and help people gain a sense of control over their experiences. It really shows how art therapy isn't just about drawing, it's about healing the mind.

* + Sociology:

Sociology helps us understand how art therapy is shaped by the communities and systems around it. In the videos, you can see how therapists often had to fight for recognition, create training programs from scratch, and work within different education and healthcare systems to make it accessible. You also see how global collaboration, like experts traveling to teach in other countries or help start professional organizations, created a support network. From a sociological lens, art therapy becomes more than a personal practice; it's a growing movement shaped by shared values, institutions, and the push for better mental health support around the world.

* + Anthropology:

An anthropologist would be especially interested in how different cultures shape and experience art therapy in their own way. In the clips, we see how traditions, languages, and beliefs are woven into therapy practices to make them more meaningful and respectful of the culture. For example, using origami in Japan or Wu Xing in China shows how art therapy isn't one-size-fits-all, it adapts to fit the people it's meant to help. Anthropology also sees art as a universal way humans express themselves, even when words aren't enough. It's about understanding how different communities use art to heal in ways that make sense to them.

Module Seven Question 2

Use the social science perspective to propose a few explanations as to why you might find graffiti in a society. Choose a social science principle (norms, roles, institutions, and beliefs and values) and describe how these might influence the appearance of graffiti in a society. Describe how the appearance of graffiti in a society might influence the people living there.

If we look at graffiti through a social science lens, especially using the principle of beliefs and values, we can start to understand why it shows up in so many places. In some communities, graffiti might be a way for people to express resistance or frustration, especially if they feel like their voices aren't being heard through more traditional means. It can also reflect what a community values—whether it's calling attention to social injustice, honoring local culture, or simply expressing creativity. The appearance of graffiti might influence the people living there by starting conversations, challenging the norm, or even inspiring pride if the art reflects shared community stories. On the flip side, if it's seen as vandalism, it might create tension or lead to efforts to control public space more strictly. Either way, it says something about the people who live there and how they choose to be seen.

Module Seven Question 3

Channel your thought process before taking this course and before adopting a social science perspective. Through what type of lens would you have viewed graffiti before taking this course? How would this have influenced how you thought about graffiti? How do these two reactions compare? Has your understanding of social science principles changed the way you perceive graffiti in society? If so, how?

If your perspective on a different issue (other than graffiti) has changed after adopting the social science perspective, feel free to write about this issue instead!

From a social science perspective, I think one reason we see graffiti in different societies is because people are trying to express something they don't feel they can say in more traditional ways. Using the principle of beliefs and values, graffiti can reflect what a community or even just one person feels strongly about. Sometimes it's frustration, resistance, or protest, and other times it's pride, memory, or creativity. You can see people using walls as a kind of public journal to say, "I'm here," or "This matters."

It also goes both ways. Once graffiti appears, it can influence how people feel about the space they live in. It might inspire others to join in, spark conversations, or even shift how a place is seen, making it feel more alive or rebellious or, depending on the message, more united. Other times, it might cause tension or be seen as disrespectful. But either way, it's a form of communication that grows out of and shapes the values of the people who create and live with it.