Description Research and discuss the association between school failure and delinquency. Discuss the personal and social factors that have been related to school failure. A great deal of scientific research examines the relationship between poor school performance and delinquency. The direction of the causal link between education and juvenile delinquency is fundamentally complex. Early aggressive behavior may lead to difficulties in the classroom. Such difficulties, in turn, may result in a child’s receiving unfavorable evaluations from teachers or peers. These, in turn, might result in delinquency. Equally, delinquency could be another manifestation of whatever characteristics got the child into trouble with school authorities in the first place. In addition, not every act of delinquency affects school performance in the same way. The seriousness of delinquent behavior may determine whether and to what extent school performance suffers. It appears that poor school performance is a more severe problem among serious violent delinquents. In a review of the literature on the predictors of youth violence, Hawkins and his colleagues (1998) concluded that serious and violent delinquents had more school-related problems.

Research findings support the existence of common factors that may cause both delinquency and poor school performance. These factors include intelligence and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (Maguin and Loeber, 1996).