**Assigned neurotransmitter: Dopamine**

1. Write a 3-5 sentence paraphrased summary of the assigned neurotransmitters' purpose and function
2. Link dopamine to a psychiatric diagnosis
3. Discuss associated symptoms of the selected diagnosis or diagnoses. Determine if each symptom is related to an excess or deficiency in the neurotransmitter.
4. Identify a drug class that treats the disorder. Discuss whether recommended medications are agonists or antagonists. Explain how the medication impacts the clinical signs and symptoms (treats the diagnosis).

**Assigned neurotransmitter: Dopamine**

1. **Write a 3-5 sentence paraphrased summary of the assigned neurotransmitters' purpose and function**

   Dopamine is a monoamine neurotransmitter in the brain that acts as a chemical messenger between the nerve cells of the brain and the rest of the body. Dopamine plays a role in the “reward center” of the brain and in other functions such as movement, memory, pleasure and reward, motivation, attention, sleep, mood, and learning. It is often referred to as the “feel-good” neurotransmitter as it gives a sense of pleasure and the motivation to do something when experiencing the pleasurable feeling. As part of the “reward system”, it is thought that, from an evolutionary standpoint, dopamine provides a good feeling as a reward for doing things necessary for survival such as eating, drinking, reproducing, and competing for survival. When a person does something perceived as pleasurable, a large amount of dopamine is released from the brain causing the “feel good” feeling that causes you to seek more of that feeling, something that may play a role in addiction (Cleveland Clinic, 2020).

2. **Link dopamine to a psychiatric diagnosis**

   Dopamine is most commonly linked to schizophrenia through the dopamine hypothesis which states that the positive symptoms of schizophrenia (hallucinations and delusion) are caused by too much dopamine in parts of the