

SELF-REFLECTION PAPER

The goal of this paper is to have the student summarize and synthesize what they have gained from the field placement experiences and the concurrent coursework. Students are encouraged to formulate a personal statement that represents their professional development and professional philosophy at this time. Students are to use the statements below as a guide to structuring their statement. However, students need not feel limited to these suggested guidelines and may expound on their experiences and professional development, as they deem appropriate. Length of the summary is not as important as conveying the information and each student's statement will be very different, depending upon their philosophical perspective, the depth of their learning experiences, and personal writing styles.

1. How have your professional goals changed from your initial field application statement and what have been the strongest influences for these changes?
2. Define generalist social work practice, as you understand it. How were your field education experiences congruent or not congruent with the overall mission of the social work profession and the generalist practice approach? How well do your personal attitudes, values, behavior, and ethical standards match with the values and principles of the social work profession?
3. Explain diversity in your own terms. What experiences have you had in your field placement that dealt with diversity? How has your understanding of the concept of diversity changed in the past year? How competent do you feel in dealing with all facets of diversity?
4. Define/describe/explain a client-related situation in which you made use of a strength-based focus. Indicated if circumstances involved an assessment or a treatment method.
5. Explain a situation in which agency policy either hindered or enhanced your ability to provide services. Be certain to explain the policy and then relate the circumstance you experienced.
6. Describe your own approach to practice at this time. What philosophical basis do you work from and what intervention methods work best for your individual style and your knowledge base at this point in your professional career.

CASE PRESENTATION

The goal of this assignment is for the student to learn how to summarize a case history, identify current needs and unresolved issues, and to present it orally for peer consultation and feedback.

Students will take a case from their field placement that involves a client-family system, an agency-based situation, or a community-based problem. Students are encouraged to use a client or situation they have been directly involved with, however, if this is not possible, students should ask their Field Instructor to suggest an agency case or situation to work with.

Students will prepare an oral presentation to present to the class. Each presentation is to be limited to fifteen minutes or less, and will follow with group problem-solving discussions for an additional ten minutes. Time frames should be adhered to as best as possible to help teach students how to summarize case information, how to stay on task, and how to maintain focus during meetings that involved this type of presentation.

The following guidelines are to be used to structure the case presentation. The format builds upon the basic structure presented in Understanding Generalist Practice, by Grafton Hull and Karen Kirst-Ashman.

Case Presentation Format

- 1. Formulate a statement of the client problem. ***
To accomplish this, you must first present enough background information for the listening audience to understand what the current situation involves. This will include some of the assessment information and some of the historical information on the case. It must also include the reasons this client is seeking/needs services at this time. What are the current goals in working with the client? Identify any extenuating circumstances.
- 2. Your observations of the client.**
What are the client's strengths and limitations? Identify support systems. What have you seen happen in this case?
- 3. The service plan to date.**
How have you been working with the client to date? What intervention methods have been utilized in an attempt to resolve the problems and to reach the treatment goals?

4. A summary of the results of interventions used or services delivered.
What progress has been made to date? What agency and/or community resources have been used and what were the results? What satisfaction and what frustrations have you experienced from your work with the client?

5. The reasons this particular case is being presented at this time.
What questions/problems/difficulties do you have with this case at this time? What are the unmet needs? What is at the basis of the presenting problem (client resistance, funding, worker inexperience, agency policy, larger system resistance, lack of resources, etc.)? What is the potential for the client's situation to reach positive resolve without agency intervention? Any reasons why the problems remain unresolved? What do you hope the other workers can help you with on this case at this time? (Why did you choose this case for presentation?)

* Students using an agency-based or a community-based situation will simply use this model substituting the macro-based issue when the framework refers to client.