

Service Learning - Final Paper

The purpose of this paper is for you to reflect on your experience in service learning this semester. Your paper should be written in ESSAY form, using TOPIC SENTENCES. (If you don't know what this means, ask me.) In order to receive full credit for your work you must follow the Guidelines for Writing Your Paper" on the last page of this assignment.

Write an ESSAY answering each of the following questions in any order that makes sense to you:

The Agency and Its Staff:

- What are the STRENGTHS of this agency? Explain.
- What are the WEAKNESSES of this agency? Explain.
- Is the PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT (the building and equipment) adequate for the agency? Why or why not? Explain.
- Describe specific behaviors of agency staff that you thought were HELPFUL in working with the clients/program participants. Explain WHY you think these behaviors were effective.
- Describe specific behaviors of agency staff that you thought were NOT HELPFUL in working with clients/program participants. Explain WHY you think these behaviors were not effective.
- Based on your experience this semester and assuming the commute would be convenient, would you want to work for this agency? Why or why not?
- Based on your experience this semester and assuming that the location is convenient, would you want someone with whom you loved to receive services from this agency? Why or why not?

Your Work with the Children and/or Teens and the Overall Service Learning Experience:

- Describe what you did on a typical day at the agency.
- What did you like BEST about your service learning experience this semester? Explain.
- What did you like LEAST about your service learning experience this semester? Explain.
- What problems or obstacles did you encounter, if any? Explain, and describe how you handled these difficulties.
- What were your most memorable moments during your service learning experience? Explain.
- What were the most important learning experiences during your service learning work at the agency? Explain.
- What specific skills or knowledge did you gain that will help you become a better human services professional? Explain.
- What are you MOST PROUD of in terms of your service learning work at the agency? Explain.

Your Work with the Children and/or Teens and the Overall Service Learning Experience (continued):

- If it were possible for you to go back and re-do your service learning experience, what would you do differently and why?
- Do you think that your service learning experience was valuable to you? Why or why not?
- Did your experiences have any influence on your desire to become a human services professional? Why or why not?
- Would you like to work with the population served by this agency in the future? Why or why not?
- Eventually, we plan to expand our service learning program and to offer the service learning in many classes here at Kingsborough. We want to make this program as valuable as possible for our students and would greatly appreciate any suggestions or input you might have. Please tell us how we could improve the service learning experience for future students? Explain.
- Is there anything you wish to discuss that was not covered in your answers to the above questions? Are there other questions we should have asked but didn't? Explain?

Remember to follow the Guidelines for Writing Your Papers on the next page when writing this assignment!

GUIDELINES FOR WRITING YOUR PAPERS

Format for your papers:

1. Use approximately 8-1/2" x 11" paper. (This paper is 8-1/2" x 11").
2. Do NOT submit your work on paper with a ragged edge that has been ripped from a spiral notebook.
3. Handwrite or type your paper on ONE-SIDE of the paper ONLY.
4. If you HANDWRITE your paper, use LINED paper only. Be sure to handwrite CLEARLY.
5. If you TYPE your paper, use SIZE 12 type and select one of the following fonts ONLY:
 - Times New Roman size 12: These guidelines are written in Times New Roman size 12
 - Arial size 12: This is a sample of Arial size 12
 - Courier size 12: This is a sample of Courier size 12
6. Be sure to put your NAME on your paper BEFORE submitting it to me.
7. STAPLE or PAPERCLIP your paper together. NO binders, notebooks, or report covers please!
8. Papers should be reasonably neat and clean when submitted to me.

How to write your paper:

1. Write your answers in ESSAY form covering all parts of the question asked. (Do NOT use bullets and do NOT number each of the bulleted points.)
2. Do NOT repeat the questions asked. Instead, use TOPIC SENTENCES to introduce topic being discussed in each paragraph.
3. Do NOT copy phrases or sentences from the text or ANY other source. This is CHEATING.
4. If you are confused about how to write your paper, get help. Here's how:
 - TALK TO ME! I'm happy to help! **OR**
 - Ask ANOTHER STUDENT in the class for input. (Choose carefully!) **OR**
 - Submit PART or ALL of your paper. I'll give you feedback and allow you to REVISE your work for a better grade, **OR**
 - Go to the Assignment Lab in L-219 (library). Make an appointment to meet with one of the graduate writing fellows. Graduate writing fellows are PhD students who are paid to work with you one-on-one to help you write your assignment. This service is FREE! Bring your assignment with you when you go for your appointment.

YOU WILL LOSE POINTS if you do not follow these guidelines! As a human services professional, you will be filling out paperwork and helping your clients apply for benefits. As a result, you will have to be able to follow directions that are far more complicated than these guidelines.