Introduction to Social Work & Social Welfare (SOWK 2273)
Professional Journal Assignment

The purpose of this assignment is twofold. The primary purpose is to acquaint you with the university library, the university librarians, and how to make use of library databases to locate research articles for exploring topics that are relevant to social work. First, you will identify an area of interest from the list below and locate one research/peer reviewed article in a professional journal that addresses your area of interest. Once the article has been obtained, you will be expected to thoroughly describe and explore the content of the article using the appraisal format presented below. A secondary purpose of this assignment is for the student to interview a social worker whose professional practice involves your selected topic and/or population chosen.

This assignment will measure competencies associated with behaviors set forth in CSWE EPAS 2015:

Competency 1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior (Knowledge, Skills, Values and Cognitive Processes level dimensions addressed)

- (3) demonstrate professional demeanor in behavior; appearance; and oral, written, and electronic communication
- (4) use technology ethically and appropriately to facilitate practice outcomes
- (5) use supervision and consultation to guide professional judgment and behavior

- Competency 4: Engage in Practice-Informed Research and Research Informed Practice

- (2) apply critical thinking to engage in analysis of quantitative and qualitative research methods and research findings
- (3) use and translate research evidence to inform and improve practice, policy, and service delivery

Complete this Assignment as follows:

- **First:** select an area of interest from the following list (additional topics will be considered but must be submitted and approved by the instructor).
  - **Areas of interest**
    - Abortion
    - Advocacy
    - Bullying
    - Child Protective Services/Abuse and Neglect
    - Child Welfare/Adoption/Foster Care
    - Disabilities
    - Forensic Social Work
    - Long term care
    - Mental Health
    - Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
    - Psychosocial Oncology
    - School Social Work
    - Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender
Health Care/Medical Social Work
HIV/AIDS
Homeless
Human Trafficking
Immigrants/Refugees
International Social Work
Juvenile Justice/Delinquency

Social Work with Adolescents/teen gangs/
Social Work with Veterans/Military
Substance Abuse
Hospice/Home Health

- **Second**: Please select one peer reviewed professional journal article on your topic area. Please ensure that you have a master copy of this article available. (Knowledge, Skills, Values and Cognitive Processes level; EPAS 4/Behavior 2, 3)
- **Third**: Interview a social worker who works in the field of practice and with the target population you have selected (in person, via email or telephone). (BSW/MSW only) (Knowledge, Skills, Values and Cognitive Processes level; EPAS 1/Behavior 3, 4, 5)
  - Summarize the article you selected to the social worker and determine from their perspective if the results/findings from the literature are accurate with their practice experience. If yes, how? If no, how do they differ?
  - Please carefully proofread your work and be sure it adheres to the sixth edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA) before submitting. Students can also submit completed papers to the ECU writing center either via email or in person to assist with writing and APA formatting.

I. Detailed Instructions for completing this Assignment:

a. APA Style Formatting
   1. Use the APA style template that you have created in the SOWK 2521 Professional Skills for Social Work and Social Welfare class to write this assignment.
   2. Do not exceed 3 pages (these 3 pages do not include the title page or the reference page)

b. Address the following questions about your Article (topical headings are listed above the questions):

   1. Identify the article you have selected – you will provide the name of the article, the date of publication and the author. Discuss which journal you found the article in and the relevance of the article to social workers. This will serve as the introduction to your paper (remember, the title of the paper should go at the top of page 2 and you should have at least a paragraph of 3 – 4 sentences to introduce your paper.
   2. Summary of Literature/Article (this will serve as the first section heading in your paper)
• In your own words, briefly summarize the review of literature presented by the authors in support of their article. Were the studies cited by the authors relevant? What did you, as a reader, learn from the review of the literature? What questions remained unanswered for you as a reader?

3. Discussion (this will serve as the second section heading in your paper)
   • What are the main points of the discussion?
   • Do you agree with the authors’ interpretations/conclusions about their results? What do you agree with? What do you disagree with?

4. Social Worker Interview (this will serve as the third section heading in your paper)
   • Identify the social worker, the agency (organization) where they work, credentials, and job title.
   • What are the major challenges in working in this field of practice/population?
   • Based on your reading of the article, inform the social worker about what you learned and ask if, from their perspective, the findings from the article are valid. Provide information that describes the social worker’s response to your article. For instance: Are the findings of the article accurate with respect to their practice experience. If yes, how? If no, how do they differ?

5. Provide an APA formatted reference list that includes the article you have chosen, the verbal communication from your interview and any other sources you used to support your writing.