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SWK 225: Human Diversity Project Guidelines

Erin Stevenson

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HUMAN DIVERSITY PROJECT GUIDELINES

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Human Diversity Project is to examine the challenges and strengths of an at-risk or vulnerable population using human behavior theories as a lens. You will work in small groups of **4-5 people** to create a collaborative WIKI. **In the WIKI pages, your group will examine** challenges and strengths among a specific at-risk population. You will **apply** human behavior theories to the social, developmental, and environmental challenges faced by members of your at-risk population. Then you will suggest ways to advocate for positive social change for this population. Writing prompts are provided.

The final part of the Human Diversity Project is an **individually written brief paper** explaining what you've learned about your at-risk population while creating the WIKI.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR GROUP WIKI

Access the WIKI instructions for your group using the **Group WIKIs** link in the left-hand menu on our blackboard page. The title of your group is the assigned population to study (for example: Students who are homeless).

GETTING STARTED

In Module 1, introduce yourself to your group during our class session. You will have time in class per the Course Schedule to work on the project, but it will also require planning and work outside of class to complete it. Once you've introduced yourselves, begin to **familiarize yourself with the at-risk population assigned** to your group. You will want to get started quickly to work with your group to develop a WIKI following the guidelines provided here. The completed WIKI is due towards the end of Module 3. (The individual paper is due in Module 4.)

REVIEW KEY TERMS

It will be helpful to review some key terms and ideas that public health experts have defined for us. Materials and handouts to help guide your work are provided for you on our blackboard site.

- Module 1: Social Determinants of Health and the power of language to explain what is meant by at-risk, vulnerable, and marginalized populations.
- Module 2: The Person in Environment section of your HBSE textbook focusing on the Systems Theory; Overview of People First Language; and Strengths Based Approach handout.
- Module 3: Lifespan development and sociocultural theories in your HBSE textbook.

COLLABORATE WITH YOUR WIKI GROUP

Work with your group members to respond to the writing prompts described here. Be sure to follow these specifications for participation. Some groups like to assign one person to take lead

on each page while other groups like to organize in different ways and that is fine. The whole group should help provide edits and suggestions to ensure the WIKI flows and makes logical sense. The completed WIKI is due in Module 3 so plan accordingly.

Remember that many of you work full-time while taking classes and some of you have families to care for at home in addition to being a student. Take this into consideration and let your group know when you are available, but also ensure you are responsible in collaborating and not holding the project up because you aren't getting your piece of the WIKI completed on time.

Expected Contributions

Each team member will need to help research the topics supplied and add information to the WIKI. The group must create a well-written page on each of the topics provided in the writing prompts. Contribution expectations for each team member include:

- - **Writing** - Contributing essential information to a minimum of two (2) WIKI pages. Contributions should include solid paragraphs that fully respond to the writing prompts and educate the reader on your at-risk population. Include in-text citations and sources added to the shared reference page. You can also add photos, links to appropriate videos, and other information that might be helpful.
- - **References** - Adding a minimum of two (2) academic sources like journal articles, government or education/healthcare professional sites (excluding your textbook) to the reference page. These should also be cited in the information you add to WIKI pages.
- - **Editing & Feedback** - Providing editing, feedback, and comments on the contributions of other group members. Comments should include positive feedback, as well as constructive suggestions for improving the quality of the WIKI information.

Group Communication

Your group should communicate regularly! You might use the comments option on the bottom right corner of each of the WIKI pages to provide feedback and have discussions with your group members. You can also use emails, texting or group messaging. Whatever you decide to use, please make sure everyone is involved in the process. Remember group members may have very different work/life schedules so you need to be flexible in your expectations for work tasks, while also be responsible for checking messages and responding to each other in a timely manner.

Instructor Feedback

The instructor will track progress on the WIKI through blackboard only and can see your contributions to the group project in this way. The instructor will give you feedback at the end of Module 2 to make sure you are on track and to provide suggestions. Your final project will be due in Module 3. You each get an individual grade for the project based on your input and contributions as well as your collaboration with your group.

WIKI WRITING PROMPTS

These are your writing prompts for adding information on the WIKI pages your group will develop. The title of each page is already provided for you in the WIKI. Find the selected topics on your menu list in the main WIKI page. Then work with your group to respond to each of these writing prompts. Be sure you follow the instructions for group participation in order to get full credit as a group member. You are expected to make individual contributions as well as show group collaboration efforts.

1) Introduce Yourself to the Group

Introduce yourself! Take a few minutes to look over the following questions and note your responses. Then take turns sharing the information within your group.

- What is your name?
- What year are you in your studies?
- When do you plan to graduate?
- What do you want to do after your graduate?
- Describe your major.
- Are you a First-Generation student?
- Something interesting about yourself.

2) Overview of the At-risk Population

Give an overview and definition of who fits into the at-risk population your group is studying. Describe why this group is considered vulnerable to being marginalized, oppressed, neglected, having limited access to resources, etc... Provide specific examples of what may have led to this situation. Provide statistics on how many people are affected and facts about the major reasons we need to find ways to improve living conditions for them.

3) Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Challenges

Describe challenges commonly faced by members of the at-risk population within the realm of the [social determinants of health \(SDOH\)](#). Be factual and cite your sources. SDOH challenges your group faces might include issues with:

- economic stability
- neighborhood or physical environment safety/resources
- educational access/resources
- healthy, affordable food access
- health care (includes physical and mental health)
- other community and social contexts

4) Systems Level Strengths

Review the information in our modules about strengths perspective which hinges on the idea that all systems include existing resources and strengths that can be used to improve the quality of life of vulnerable people and communities. We should emphasize these strengths and build on them to improve SDOH. Saleeby suggests using questions like these to uncover strengths in a system: <http://www.preventconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Strength-based-questions.pdf>

For this WIKI page, describe two or more strengths within the macro, mezzo and micro system levels of their environment that might be present for an individual who is a member of the at-risk population. Give examples of how these strengths and resources might be used to help overcome challenges in the social environment for this population.

5) Lifespan Development Theory Applications

Using the three lifespan development theories provided here, define the theory and then use it to describe how challenging conditions in the environment might impact the *social, emotional, and physical development* of members of the at-risk population your group is studying. Give examples, facts and statistics.

Lifespan Development Theories

- Erickson's Theory of Psychosocial Development
- Piaget's Theory of Cognitive Development
- Kohlberg's Theory of Moral Development

6) Sociocultural Theory Applications

Using the three sociocultural theories provided here, describe how challenging conditions in the social environment might impact the *social, emotional and physical development* of members of the at-risk population your group is studying. Give examples, facts and statistics.

Sociocultural Theories

- Critical Practice Theory
- Feminist Theory
- Social Constructionism (or Symbolic Interaction Theory)

7) Advocate for Change

Suggest three (3) societal changes that we might advocate should be made in order to improve conditions for your at-risk population (i.e., policies, legislation, funding, education, public information, resource distribution, etc...). Be specific and reference examples of how each change in our society might make a positive impact on the SDOH of individuals, families and communities in your at-risk population.

8) References

All the of the academic sources used to support the information in your WIKI should appear in APA format (7th edition) on the shared WIKI References page. Remember to keep the references listed alphabetically by first author's last name per APA format, regardless of what section they are cited in the WIKI. Each reference should be cited in the text on at least one WIKI page. For more on citations and references review APA website's infographic: [Six Steps to Proper Citation](#).

HUMAN DIVERSITY PROJECT INDIVIDUAL BRIEF REPORT

In Module 4, you will write a brief individual report describing the at-risk population your Human Diversity group studied. This should be an individually written paper, but you should use information from the WIKI pages your group developed. Do not cut/paste the information from your group project. Instead, synthesize and paraphrase in your own words to write the paper.

Format: Be sure to follow these guidelines and use the provided headings. The paper should be about 3-4 pages (not including the title or references page) and should follow APA 7th edition formatting. Here are the headings to use:

Introduction

Give an overview of the at-risk population in your group WIKI project. Describe why they are considered vulnerable and what may have led to this situation. Give statistics on how many people are affected and facts about the major reasons we need to find ways to improve living conditions for them.

Theory Application

Describe which human behavior theory you feel is most applicable to your population's circumstances. This might be a lifespan development theory or a sociocultural theory from the WIKI. Define the theory briefly. Then use the theory to describe why social, emotional and developmental challenges impact this at-risk population

Social Change Advocacy

Elaborate on what you believe is one of the most important social changes we should advocate for in regard to the at-risk population you studied. This should be a social change that would likely improve SDOH and well-being of the at-risk group through improved policies, legislation, resources, education or other ideas. Give specific examples of how you might advocate for this change.

Conclusion

Summarize what you learned from studying this at-risk population. What was most surprising or different than you expected when you started the project? What is your most important take-away lesson?

References

Include at least three (3) academic references. These references must be cited in the text of your paper. These can be the same references you used in your WIKI pages or new references you find appropriate.