

**ScWk 240 Written Assignment #2**  
**Fall 2012**

**Due via hard copy or email by class time on 12/5/12**

Please write in no more than 8 to 10 pages total:

**\*\*\* The title page and reference pages ARE NOT included in the page limit**

- 1) Your **REVISED Introduction** (APA main heading, bold, centered) (3 to 4 paragraphs).

The introduction describes the research topic (i.e. “This research examines....”) and provides a context for the significance of the topic. This section should incorporate up-to-date literature (e.g. current demographic statistics and trends, new and innovative studies) to articulate clearly your research topic. The essential questions that should be answered by this section are:

1. What is the practical and theoretical importance of this research topic? (the “so what” question),
2. How would more information and research on this topic area contribute to knowledge both in social work and other disciplines?

In the Introduction, make sure that you:

- Provide information about **why this research topic is important**. For instance:
  - How large of a population does this problem or issue affect?
  - Has the problem or issue been growing larger (or worse) over time?
  - What is the influence of the problem/issue on disenfranchised or marginalized groups? (i.e. what does it mean for the clients that social workers serve)?
  - This information can be general in nature (put the specific and details in the background section).
- Describe **why we need more information on this topic**. For instance:
  - If your topic involves an intervention, make the case for why we need more research on this intervention, or why we need more information on the effectiveness of the intervention with certain populations or in certain locations.
  - If your topic does not involve an intervention, describe how the results of the study you are proposing will help fill a gap in the knowledge base on this topic.
- Include the specific research statement for your proposed study:
  - This research examines.....

- 2) Your **REVISIED Relevance to Social Work from a Transcultural Perspective** (APA sub-heading, bold, flush left—this is a sub-section within the introduction) (1 to 3 paragraphs).

The purpose of the Relevance to Social Work from a Transcultural Perspective section is to make a case for why the findings from your proposed study will help improve social work practices and/or policies through the lens of the transcultural perspective.

Make sure that you:

- Describe ONE or TWO aspects of the transcultural model that can be applied to your research topic AND
- Describe how this model helps to identify key areas of relevance to social work

- 3) Your **REVISED Background** (APA sub-heading, bold, flush left -- this is a subsection within the **Literature Review** section) (1 to 2 pages)

The purpose of the Background section is to provide detailed and specific information that frames the extent of the problem or issue you are studying and characteristics of the people involved. There may be similar information or some overlap between the background information in the Introduction and this section; however, do not cut and paste information from the Introduction into the Background section. General information can be provided in the Introduction, and the specific and detailed information should come in the Background section.

In the Background section, make sure that you:

- Provide statistics and/or demographic information to **describe the population** that is the focus of the research topic.
- Provide statistics that describe **trends in the extent of the problem or issue over time** (length of time of the problem, has it been getting worse over time?)
- Whenever possible, start with national statistics, then provide state-level and then county-level. It's not always possible to get all of these levels of information, but try to. It helps to provide a thorough context of the issue.
- Historical or policy-related information may also be included in this section, if applicable to the topic.

- 4) Your **REVISED Theory section** (APA sub-heading, bold, flush left, this is a sub-section within the **Literature Review**) (1 to 2 pages)

The theoretical framework is used to organize and explain your research topic. Briefly describe the theory or conceptual model that helps to explain the phenomenon you are studying. Select only one theory/conceptual framework for your paper. Describe how the theory can be applied to your research topic area.

Make sure that you:

- Briefly describe the theory or conceptual model that helps to explain the phenomenon you are studying. Select only one theory/conceptual framework for your paper.
- Describe how the theory can be applied to your research topic area.

5) Your **Review of Evidence sections, AKA the “Body” Sections** (NEW for this assignment) (3 to 4 pages)

The purpose of the Review of Evidence sections is to thoroughly review the knowledge base on your topic AND critically evaluate the limitations of this knowledge base.

Make sure that you:

- Organize the sub-sections according to your model. Each subsection explains with evidence (i.e., an integrated review of relevant literature) the connection between the independent and dependent variable consistent with your hypothesis and/or how the themes relate to your research question.
- Discuss in an integrated fashion the current status of the specific topic in the professional knowledge base, limitations of previous studies related to your specific topic, and how your proposed study will make a contribution.

6) Your **Hypothesis(es) and Research Question(s)** (NEW for this assignment)

Research questions are required for both quantitative and qualitative components of your project.

Quantitative:

The purpose of the research question is to focus your topic into a question that your study's methods will answer. The purpose of the hypothesis is to make a prediction about the relationship between the independent and the dependent variables that will be tested in the quantitative study you are proposing.

Qualitative:

The purpose of the research question is to develop an open-ended question that identifies the broad domains to be explored in the qualitative study you are proposing.

7) Minimum 15 references. Although a majority of references are cited in the literature review, the introduction usually contains references as well.

8) Please develop a title for your project and use the attached guideline for formatting the title page.

Tips and Suggestions:

- ★ Develop an outline!!

- ★ An outline includes each section of your paper and then includes bullet points and reference notes on all of the content in each section.
- ★ Please read your syllabus and other class materials for more information and tips about how to write your literature review.
- ★ Refer to your reader and textbook literature review examples written in academic style.
- ★ Examples of 298 papers, including literature reviews, can be accessed on the Research Sequence webpage: <http://www.sjsu.edu/socialwork/courses/Research/>

Grading: 30% of your final grade and assessment of writing competency.

This assignment is REQUIRED. The spirit of the assignment is to guide you towards the next step in completing a research proposal with additional opportunities to receive feedback and to develop your ideas. Please see the attached grading rubric for Written Assignment #2.

Paper Components and Format Example:

Following is a working outline with APA heading levels based on an example regarding MSW Student Life Satisfaction. **This is a hypothetical example for instructional purposes only!** Note that the general organization of all research papers is very similar, but specific presentation, including each paper's subsections and subheadings, will vary. Please consult with your professor for additional instructions and assistance.

## **Introduction**

### **Relevance to Social Work from a Transcultural Perspective**

#### **Literature Review**

#### **Background of MSW Students and Life Satisfaction**

#### **Developmental Theory and MSW Student Life Satisfaction**

#### **Age and Life Satisfaction**

#### **Family Life and Life Satisfaction**

#### **Socioeconomic Status and Life Satisfaction**

#### **Hypotheses and Research Question**