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Community Assessment Project

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Community Assessment Project

Develop your Learning Collective:

You will be given time to form a self-selected group (3-4 students). It is essential to identify group agreements and develop an evaluation process for your learning collective to identify strengths and areas for improvement. A check-in process will occur periodically until the assignment is completed.

I. Community Assessment Project

Please begin your community assessment with an introductory paragraph. See below for a review of the criteria for each section. Your paper should be approximately (12-15 pages, excluding references).

The paper should contain the following sections:

II. Background and Information

Demographic Overview & Social Issues: In community practice, you often need to research, document, and synthesize data and information as a basis for assessment. The goal here is to provide an overview of the people within the community. You may want to highlight a few key points, such as whether there have been any changes in the community and the history of the community in this geographical space.

Specific questions to address are:

- What are the dimensions of the underlying social condition(s) (e.g., gentrification or arrival of new immigrant groups)?
- Who is affected? How are they affected? How many are affected?
- How reliable is the information on the condition(s)? What are the sources of uncertainty?

Pay attention to the reliability of your information sources.

- How are you judging the reliability, potential political bias, and completeness of information?
- How certain are the empirical claims? What are the sources of uncertainty?

You should collect information from the following sources:

- At least three articles published in an academic journal
- At least one website maintained by a government entity
- At least two websites maintained by an interest or advocacy group

II. Asset-mapping

Community asset mapping looks at what a community has to offer rather than its existing problems. For example, instead of asking routine questions about drop-out or crime rates, you ask about community successes or “hope stories,” as [Kretzmann & McKnight \(1997\)](#) call them.

Asset-mappers examine a community’s six categories of assets:

1. Talents and skills of people (To learn how to use a Gifts Explosion tool, please view “[Creating Collaborative Solutions With Communities Using ‘Gifts Explosion’ and ‘See It My Way’](#)” by Aakanksha Sinha, is licensed under [CC BY 4.0](#))
2. Community volunteer groups and networks
3. Government and non-government organizations
4. Physical assets: land, property, buildings, equipment, buses, trains
5. Economic assets: production of people, consumer spending, business assets
6. Stories: heritage and local/cultural values and identity, formulated around appreciative inquiry.

V. Power Analysis

1. Who has power in the community (formal roles/informal roles)? Describe the forms of power (e.g., political, economic, social connections)
2. Who likely has the least power in the community?
3. What resources are not in the community?
4. What institutions/structures outside the community boundaries are likely to have an impact on the community? (e.g., federal minimum wage; the prison industrial complex)
5. Considering that, as social workers, we have power, please describe the power we hold? What do you need to consider in engaging and transitioning from this community?

VI. Summary of Key Findings

Highlight a few of the critical issues that have been identified in the report. For example, if health insurance coverage, poverty, or lack of quality childcare have been identified as issues that contribute to the barriers to accessing or utilizing mental health

resources, you can highlight them here. You don't have to repeat the details which are covered above. One helpful way of organizing this section is to include a few bullet points highlighting the key findings and apparent key issues in your community.

VII. Recommendations

This section can be very brief. Discuss the meaning and implications of your community assessment finding. (e.g., A community assessment could have an impact on immigrant families who are differently documented)

VIII. References

List the APA citations for any literature or publicly available data. You should collect information from at least the following sources:

- At least three articles published in academic journals
- At least one website maintained by a government entity
- At least two websites maintained by an interest or advocacy group

IX. Appendixes

Documents that readers may want or need to see better to understand your community assessment (e.g., interview questions, graphs, and community maps).

X. Individual Reflection on Group Process Paper

- **GROUP ASSESSMENT:** As this is a group assignment, along with the Community Assessment Report, each student is required to submit:
 1. A statement regarding your responsibilities and contributions to the Community Assessment assignment.
 2. Provide feedback (a sentence or two) on each member's contributions to the project

Community Assessment Assignment Rubric

Community Assessment Planning & Overview (35%)

Provides a detailed, well-supported community description & environmental analysis that is informed by:
Demographic, economic, and political data

- Community characteristics
- Social institutions
- Primary data (Interviews, Observations, and Agency Visits)

5 10 15 20 25 30 35

Community Assets (25%)

Applies an Asset-based approach to the assessment. An insightful identification of the stories of hope, strengths, and resiliencies found in the community. The resources found within the community's cultural values, beliefs, and traditions are discussed. It provides a thoughtful analysis of the meaningful ways that agencies, funding sources, and informal/formal entities support the community. Includes a contextually relevant community asset map.

5 10 15 20 25

Power Analysis (15%)

Critically discussing the most significant institutional, organizational and structural barriers in the community environment that impact human development and well-being, including forms of oppression (such as housing discrimination, the infrastructure of the community, etc.)

3 6 9 12 15

Recommendations for the community (10%)

Provides a comprehensive set of research-informed recommendations for building on the community's most valuable strengths. Recommendations also identify feasible approaches to successfully address the community's most daunting challenges and enable the community to better support positive human development and community well-being.

2 4 6 8 10

References, Clarity and Organization in Writing (10%)

Use at least 5-7 references, all within the last five years and correctly formatted in APA style. The content is clear to the reader. Written concisely and clearly. Word choice is consistently precise and accurate. Sentences are well-phrased and varied in length and type.

2 4 6 8 10

Group Performance (5%)

Submissions The group produces documents that record the group's activities and decisions, including meeting agendas, meeting minutes, and work plans. Submission statements of individual contributions and the evaluation of group members are complete.

1 2 3 4 5

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