Task Nine

Andrew Frazier

Old Dominion University

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Through the Program Development course this semester, I was able to get a lot done in under a semester time. This course is not only essential to the growth of a Human Service professional but as a career tool that will help guide to push their career even further. In this reflective paper I intend to speak about what I have gained and learned through this course, the areas of improvement I have gained from the course, the most challenging tasks I have completed, and how I may utilize this for my future career. I also intend to speak of how my individual evaluation concedes to the objectives of this course in my final thoughts.

**Areas of Improvement**

Through this writing intensive course, We have had many assignments that required us to utilize Microsoft Word and other tools to help us a complete task. I believe that I have been able to understand and identify many of my grammatical mistakes and improve on making fewer mistakes through my report writing. This course has also help me improve on my communication skills with many members of the community and the faculty and staff of different agencies. I believe that because of that growth I have been able to become more confident in my writing skills and research. Lastly, I believe that I have been able to help others and identify problems I see more efficiently and organized through by completing the tasks.

**Lesson Learned/Applied**

I was able to learn a lot of lessons through this course and many of the tasks performed provided a great insight into what I will do in the human service profession. Through this course, I have learned that there are many types of observations and evaluations you can perform on a given population. I utilized this lesson when I conducted an interview-based, goal-free observation to the children of Park Place School, I believe that there will be many times in my future career where I will utilize this training with clients and work with them on a given issue. I also believe that by creating the mind map exercise that we learned in class helped me apply my topics and create sub-topics to ultimately create a better sense of my topic. I have also differences between qualitative data and quantitative data, I believe that I utilize this in my evaluation by recording the children’s thoughts and feelings in my interviews instead of numerically writing the number of interviews I set for the children.

**Challenges in the Course**

Through this I have faced some roadblocks while performing the evaluations, I believe that the scheduling between myself and the agency was very challenging due to myself being the first student to perform an evaluation task on them. I believe it also made it difficult to really connect with the stakeholders due to their lack of understanding of the course. Another challenge I believed I faced was being able to conduct a goal-free observation and not form a standard to hold my observation. In other words, I found it hard to not go into the classroom and automatically look for issues to report. The child being bullied really bothered me and it was very hard to not mark that has a negative on behalf of the school through my evaluations of the program.

**Final Thoughts**

I believe that the work I performed through my interaction with both the in-class session and the field evaluation with the Park Place Staff emulates the course objective. In particular, I believe that with the limited amount of resources I did an exceptional job of keeping the agency informed of both my timeline and evaluation time. I believe my work reflected the amount of time I put into the project and I believe that my task content reflects my personal assessment of the school and the needs assessment of the agency. I also believe that Task 3-5 shows that I effectively prepared both a set topic, researched articles, and set an efficient protocol to meet the objectives of this course. This course is important to myself because this work is useful in the career world of community organizing, I believe that creating research protocols and meeting set timelines that the individual creates for themselves is very important into leading a community and even enriching your own. Lastly, I believe that this course will help me gain better interviewing skills and also create better observations tactics, especially when in a position of executive-level.