Task Three

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The agency I am planning on evaluating is an elementary school guidance office. Throughout this paper I will look into articles that talk about the guidance offices within school systems.

**Article One**

**Focus**

 The first article I looked at was by Educational Leadership, and it is Why Guidance Counseling Needs to Change. This article focuses on what the expectations are in the guidance office, and how that isn’t being met in most high schools.

**Research Methods**

 This article is a literature review because it talks about findings that other researchers are talking about. The authors really focus on findings from researchers such as Johnson, Rochkind, Ott, and DuPont.

**Recommendations for Future Research**

 According to this article the recommendation is having partners. They need more people involved in the guidance counseling system. They need “hands on helpers” in order for the offices to be successful with the students.

**Relevance or Usefulness**

 This article is very useful in my research for my agency because it gives in detail what things are that they have found needs improvement in the system. These are great things to keep in mind and look for within my own agency.

**Article Two**

**Focus**

The next article I looked into is about the difference in student to counselor ratios within the school system. This is interesting to look into, and something I didn’t think about to look into.

**Research Methods**

This article is a study done by the authors. It looks at the ratio recommended by the American School Counselor Association, and what states are lacking in this ratio. It was found that three states have averages that do not meet these criteria.

**Recommendations for Future Research**

A lot of the recommendations for the future include doing more studies on different aspects of the counseling system. These include things such as how counselors use their time and how many caseloads one counselor should have. Both of these will be beneficial for the future of counseling.

**Relevance or Usefulness**

This is very useful for my research because this was one thing I didn’t even think to research. This being said, I think adding a research question such as is the ratio of students to counselors is in line with the American School Counselor Association recommendation.

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**Article Three**

**Focus**

 The main focus of this article is how many school counselors are spread very thin with their workloads. The article believes that since the counselors are spread so thin, they don’t give the students the amount of attention needed for them to be successful.

**Research Methods**

 This article seems to be a study as well. It looks particularly into a counselor named Nava, and what her average day looks like. They look into the caseloads of each counselors, and how this hinders their ability to help the students.

**Recommendations for Future Research**

 The recommendation found in this article is quite simple. The author believes that face to face time, and building the relationships needed with students is the only way for the counselors to be successful in the school system. They need to work on more of that versus their caseloads.

**Relevance or Usefulness**

 I really enjoyed this article, and what it had to say. It was very relevant to what I am looking for in one of my research questions as well. I will be very critical on how much face to face time goes into the day for the guidance counselors at Strawbridege Elementary.

**Article Four**

**Focus**

 This article looks at what a school counselor should and shouldn’t be in the school system. It also looks at what counselors should be doing within the school system, and how they should interact with students.

**Research Methods**

 This article is a study as well, and includes interviews with a counselor named Jonathan Durr as its main source of information. Throughout the article, the author will refer to what Durr thinks and does in his school.

**Recommendations for Future Research**

 The recommendations from this article include things such as preparing students for the world after they graduate. This is something they believe is lacking within the school system, and that students are leaving not knowing what to expect in the world.

**Relevance or Usefulness**

 This is relevant to my research because I will be able to see if the counselors at my school are doing all the things that Durr encourages. I will also look to see if they are trying to help the transition from elementary school to middle school be a smooth one.

**Article Five**

**Focus**

 This articles main focus is to see how effective counseling is in the school. It looks at a variety of different articles to compare and contrast how effective guidance counseling is.

**Research Methods**

 This article is definitely a literature review because it is looking at a variety of different articles from different studies, and deciding based on those how effective the counseling sysem is.

**Recommendations for Future Research**

 This article recommends for more studies to be done on the counseling system. These authors believe that in order for the counseling system in schools to continue to be successful in the future, then they need to continue to be evaluated and make changes to their systems.

**Relevance or Usefulness**

 This article is very useful because it is ultimately saying that my evaluation will be useful for the school. Sine it encourages research and evaluations of the different counseling services provided by schools, I am doing exactly what it needs me to do.

**Article Six**

**Focus**

 The sixth article I looked into is an article from Bradley University. They looked at how school counselors can have a positive impact on students. They focus on how important school counseling is for students, and what it means to them.

**Research Methods**

 This article is a literature review looking into several other studies done in the past. It has come to its conclusion about how important school counseling is based on all the other research done before it.

**Recommendations for Future Research**

 There is no recommendations or anything about future research. However, I think that it is important to keep finding the good that counseling does for students to encourage the counselors to keep going. As stated in previous articles, counselors get burned out but if they know what good they are doing it will help them keep going.

**Relevance or Usefulness**

 This is a very useful article for my research because I will be able to look for the positive impact the counselors I am evaluating are having on their students. This will give me a better sense of the environment in which they are working, and the environment in which the students are attending.

**Article Seven**

**Focus**

 The focus of my seventh article is the things that school counselors want others to know about their job. A ton of people think they know exactly what school counselors do, however the things they know don’t even make up half of what they are expected to do.

**Research Methods**

 This is a study because it focuses on interviews done first hand by the author. It talks to three different counselors, and researches what they wish the general public knew about their jobs and responsibilities.

**Recommendations for Future Research**

 The authors want to continue the talk and research into school counselors, and what they are expected to do. They think that in order for us to understand the responsibilities and for counselors to gain respect, people need to know exactly what goes into their jobs.

**Relevance or Usefulness**

 This is a very useful article for me because it is things I should keep in mind while evaluating the counselors. These are things that make what they do so honorary yet difficult, and most of these things are done behind the scenes. It is just a good reminder that I won’t see everything that goes into what they do for their job.

**Article Eight**

**Focus**

 Wake Forest University did an article on whether schools need more counselors. This article focuses on how school counselors effect their students, and whether more are needed for students to remain successful.

**Research Methods**

 This article is a literature review that took a good majority of their information from studies that were already done. Some studies include those in New York, Miami, Chicago, and Houston.

**Recommendations for Future Research**

 The recommendations throughout this article include how school counselors are the backbone for student success, and how we need as many as possible within the school systems. The article gives examples of how important school counselors are, and how without them our students would be in serious trouble.

**Relevance or Usefulness**

 This article is very useful because it is a reminder that even though my evaluation may have some things come up that need to be changed, school counselors are necessary for the students. They do more then we think, and they may not be perfect in every way but they do their best and are needed.

**Article Nine**

**Focus**

 This article examines the day in the life of a high school counselor. It looks at what traits it takes to make a good counselor, and what to expect in a day of a counselor.

**Research Methods**

 This article is a study based on a high school counselor. This article explains how their daily life goes, and what their workload includes. It looks at how important their job is within the school system.

**Recommendations for Future Research**

 They recommend looking at more counselor’s daily lives, and seeing how they are similar and different. They want to examine how certain things in the daily life of a counselor can affect the way the job is done.

**Relevance or Usefulness**

 This article is very relevant for me because it gives me an idea of what to expect when I go into the school. I won’t be blindsided on what they do or how much running around their job entails.

**Article Ten**

**Focus**

My final articles that I looked into was all about the guidance counselors are undervalued within the school system. It looks at how people view their job, but also how beneficial they are within the individual school systems.

**Research Methods**

 This looks to be a literature review based on a national survey that was out within the communities. It looked at how no one within the survey said that money should be spent on counselors. This shows how undervalued counselors really are, even to the parents of students.

**Recommendations for Future Research**

 They recommend more nonprofit organizations to help put value on counselors. They believe that counselors do more then what is recognized, and with these non profits people will start to see just how valuable these counselors are.

**Relevance or Usefulness**

 This article was very useful to me because I didn’t know that counselors were so unvalued within the school system. I also didn’t now funding was so low for them. I will look into this in my evaluation, and see if this has any negative effects on the services provided.

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