

Introduction to Community Service Professions Case Study Assignment

What is a Case Study?

A case is a story, with plot, characterization, and even dialogue. Studying and discussing the details of a case helps the class to learn about the complexity of the issues human services professionals face. A good case is centered on a “messy” situation. It poses a problem that resists and single, neat, logical solution. When writing a case, one looks for situations that stumped and irritated the people who experienced them.

Your Assignment

The case you write must be a true one. It may come from your own life, that of family or friends, or from your internship experience. It must involve a problem a human services professional (health care provider, teacher, social worker, public defender, etc.) would really find challenging. However, names, dates, and locations should be changed to protect confidentiality.

You will write the case so that your classmates can discuss a thought-provoking problem. You may work on your case individually or in pairs. You will present your case so that the time frame or chronology is clear, and the issues are easy to understand. Make sure you bring the people in the case to life, show them as whole, real, interesting and complex people.

- 1) Identify the issue, and develop your background research.**
- 2) Find a case, either through interviews at your internship or through other sources (teachers, family, online research...)**
- 3) Write up the case study story, changing the names and other details so that personal privacy is not violated.**

Introduction: How did the situation begin?

Body: How did the situation develop? What other issues made it more difficult? Tell the story.

Analysis: Summarize research about the main issues involved –

- 1) What is the main issue involved, and how do other issues connect?
- 2) Who is most usually most affected by these issues, and how seriously? (Don't make it up, research to find and use facts). Site your sources.
- 3) What resources are available to deal with this issue? (Use Youth Services Handbook and internet – make sure the resources you find are local.)
- 4) What are the possible options for how the problem could be addressed? “
- 5) Which do you think is the best alternative and why?

Conclusion: You will present your case study, and then give three questions to spark discussion. You will give a case study presentation and lead a small group discussion for your fall final.

Format:

Your case study must be typed, double spaced, in 12 point type, and should be three to five pages in length.