ScWk 240 Written Assignment #1:

Introduction, Background and Theory Sections of the Literature Review

Due: October 3, 2012

Introduction (1-2 pages):

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?

3. How can the transcultural model be used to explain or understand this research topic?

Background (1-2 pages):

This section helps to provide information that frames the extent of the problem or issue you are studying and characteristics of the people involved. The background section provides statistical and/or demographic information to describe the population that is the focus of the research topic or other aspects of the research topic. Historical or policy-related information may also be included in this section, if applicable to the topic.

Theory (1-2 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.

Evaluation

Component	Excellent	Adequate (some improvements needed)	Not Adequate (numerous improvements needed)
Introduction	The research topic is clearly articulated. The significance of the topic is presented in a logical and specific manner. The transcultural model is effectively applied to the research topic. Up-to-date scholarly works are cited in the introduction to help frame the topic and its importance.	The research topic is vaguely presented, or too many ideas are presented. The significance of the topic is presented in a general way, or the information provided is not clearly connected to the topic. The transcultural model is applied vaguely or is poor developed. Scholarly works cited may not be current.	No developed research topic is presented. The topics' significance is missing or unclear. The transcultural model application is not included or is applied incorrectly. Scholarly works are not included or are not connected to the topic.
Background	Information on the extent of the problem/issue and/or the population is thoroughly presented and is logically connected to the research topic. Statistical, demographic and/or other scholarly works are included and cited.	Information on the extent of the problem/issue and/or the population is too broadly or too narrowly presented and may not be logically connected to the research topic. Statistical, demographic and/or other scholarly works are included and cited.	Information on the extent of the problem/issue and/or the population is missing, superficial or it not connected to the research topic. Statistical, demographic and/or other scholarly works may not be included or cited.
Theory	The theory is clearly and concisely described. The application of the theory to the research topic is specific and logically presented.	The theory is too broadly or too narrowly described. The application of the theory to the research topic is not fully developed and connections with the topic are not consistently clear.	The description of the theory is missing or poorly developed. The application of the theory to the topic is not clear and the connection to the topic is weak.

Writing

Writing Component	Excellent	Adequate (Some improvements needed)	Not Adequate (Numerous improvements needed)
Structure The structure of your paper should include a logical organization that guides the reader in understanding your topic. A well-structured paper allows readers to see the relationships between your research statement, the evidence presented and the overall relevance.	The introduction clearly defines the research topic. The subsequent sections of the paper support the research topic and ideas presented in the introduction. Conclusion summarizes main idea and shows why it matters (not applicable in Written Assignment #1).	The introduction defines the research topic, although it may be too broad or too narrow for the length of the paper The subsequent sections of the paper support the thesis with evidence from reliable sources Conclusion restates main idea	The introduction does not define the research topic. The subsequent sections of the paper are not sufficient to support the ideas presented in the introduction. Ending does not tie paper together
Flow The flow of your paper should include smooth transitions between paragraphs, good organization within paragraphs, and logical organization of ideas.	Ideas are arranged in a clear, logical order that is easy to follow Transitions guide the reader smoothly from one idea to the next	Ideas are arranged logically Transitions give the reader some help in following the argument	Movement between ideas is abrupt or illogical
Depth The depth of your paper should reflect a comprehensive and critical review and analysis. A thorough understanding of the topic is evident, as well as an analysis of gaps in the current knowledge base, or key questions for the field to address.	Paper shows extensive knowledge of standard works and terms in the field. Readers' questions and objections are antici-pated and answered. Writer provides new information, clarity, or a unique perspective to scholarly discussion of topic	Paper shows familiarity with standard works and terms in the field Readers may be left feeling that an important aspect of the subject has not been explored Paper reviews what others have written about the topic	Paper appears to be hastily written Arguments are unsupported Exploration of the topic is superficial or contains numerous inaccuracies

Writing Component	Excellent	Adequate (Some improvements needed)	Not Adequate (Numerous improvements needed)
Use of sources Your paper should include an integration of academic sources so that references are used in relation to your research topic and are organized around core ideas. APA (6th ed.) should be used for all references in the paper.	Material from other authors is smoothly integrated into text Quotations are limited to statements that are particularly striking or examples in which the source's precise wording is important APA is used correctly and consistently	Material from other authors is credited and used as supporting evidence Material from sources is introduced, but order of ideas depends on the original APA is mostly used correctly or consistently	Material is plagiarized Material from other authors appears to have been cut-and-pasted into text APA is not correct or consistent
Conventions Your paper should follow all conventions related to grammar, punctuation, and spelling.	Writing follows the grammatical and spelling conventions of standard English Diction is formal, avoiding "I" and "we," slang, and contractions [for exception, see APA 2.04]	Writing generally follows the grammatical and spelling conventions of standard English	Writing is difficult to follow because of numerous errors in spelling and grammar

From: A Writing Tutorial for Graduate Students
by Cecelia Munzenmaier
http://www.educ.drake.edu/aded/comments.htm

Additional Writing Resources

Temple University Writing Center
Contains a number of helpful handouts and writing guides geared toward academic writing
http://www.temple.edu/writingctr/aboutus.htm

University of North Carolina Writing Center
Contains a number of helpful handouts and writing guides geared toward academic writing
http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/

The Online Writing Lab (OWL) at Purdue:
Grammar and Mechanics sections:
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/

APA Writing Stylistics:
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/15/

APA Guidelines on Avoiding Bias
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/14/

The Blue Book of Grammar and Punctuation:
http://www.grammarbook.com/english_rules.asp