SMU course number and title

Writing Request

- Anth 4307: Global and Public Health

Throughout the semester, we worked on a term project that involved us identifying a health solution that has been successful in another context, such as a developing country, and adapting and applying the solution to a new context, like Dallas. We had to design an evaluation to test this solution on the desired population. The first stage of the paper was a 5-7 page research paper due halfway through the semester, and then the final project was a 10-12 page research paper due at the end of the semester.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will state and defend a thesis with adequate attention to analysis and evidence.

My thesis for the paper proposed that depression rates among the elderly living in nursing homes could be reduced by task shifting cognitive behavioral therapy to residents. This thesis was first defended by setting up the importance of this intervention due to the high prevalence of depression among elderly individuals who live in nursing homes. A study in the U.S. conducted by Dr. Unützer demonstrated the financial impact that depression among the elderly has on our economy. Then, the effectiveness of CBT in the U.S. was shown by using a review of 16 meta-analyses conducted by Butler et al. The focus was then shifted to developing countries where studies, such as Dr. Rahman’s study in Pakistan,
demonstrated that cognitive behavioral therapy can be task shifted to individuals without a medical background and still produce significant results. We were also required to reach out to the target population to obtain feedback on our proposed intervention. I spoke to several individuals in a nursing home, and I used their critiques to modify and enhance my intervention. Lastly, the essay was concluded with any potential limitations of the intervention design that still remained.

2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of essay and paragraph development and organization.

For organizational purposes, this paper was divided into five sections. The following sections were included: Intend Impact, Background and Significance, Intervention Design, Evaluation Design, and Potential Limitations. The sections helped to organize the information into their respective relevant sections.

3. Students will craft sentences with attention to audience, purpose, and tone, as well as sentence variety and diction.

My research paper was designed to address health professionals and nursing home staff members. To support my argument and set up the purpose of the essay, I used relevant statistics to highlight the prevalence of depression and the need of an intervention. The following sentences were pulled from my paper to demonstrate these requirements:

“Particularly high rates of depression can be found in nursing homes among the elderly population (GMHF). The Geriatric Mental Health Foundation reports that 15% of Americans over the age of 65 are depressed (GMHF), which is over six million people (US Census Bureau, 2012). Roughly 50% of these affected individuals
live in nursing homes (GMHF). Depression can be exacerbated among the elderly by facing nursing home placement, failing health, increased dependency on others and the undeniable confrontation with death. Considering that the Baby Boomer generation is rapidly aging, the number of elderly individuals with depression is going to exponentially increase in the upcoming years making this public health issue a high priority."

4. Students will demonstrate proper use of grammatically and mechanically correct English (or the language in which the course is taught)

The sample above was pulled from my essay can demonstrate the use of proper grammar and mechanics.