

Psychology 175 Community Psychology Final Paper

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Purpose: The purpose of this assignment is for you to (1) apply the knowledge that you acquire throughout the course to a real-world community problem, and (2) become familiar with one specific organization that targets your chosen community problem. The paper requires you to THINK about what you are learning and APPLY it to a specific problem.

Format: All papers should be word-processed or typed using double-spacing and a 12 pt. font. Your papers should have a title, a cover page, page numbers on each page of text, and a reference page. Your reference page should include any course readings that you use, as well as any online references that you incorporate. You must cite any ideas, theories, etc. that are not your own. Whenever you refer to a concept from external materials you must cite the reference in the text of your paper. Your method of citation and reference list should be in “APA style”. Please consult the Psych 175 tutor if you are unsure about the structure of citations and your reference page. The final paper should be 8-10 pages in length.

Evaluation: The Final Paper is worth 100 points. You will be evaluated in the following categories: Timely Submission (10 points), Comprehensiveness and Content Mastery (50 points), Creativity and Critical Thinking (20 points), Organization, Writing & Presentation (20 points). The final paper is **due by Monday, September 18th no later than 11:30 a.m.** You should turn in your paper to the AAP Office – 1230 or 1232 Campbell Hall. Please note that papers turned in after 11:30 will receive “0” points in the timely submission category. You may also choose to turn in your paper at our last class on Friday, September 15th.

Description

Your first tasks are to identify a community problem of interest to you and an organization that focuses on that problem. For example, if you chose HIV/AIDS as your problem, you could use The Minority AIDS Project (<http://www.map-usa.org/html/greeting.html>) for your organization. You do not have to choose an organization that is local to the Los Angeles area. It is fine to choose a state or national organization as long as it has programs and/or interventions that are implemented in one or more communities.

I. Introduction. The introduction to the paper should identify your community problem. It should include examples of the manifestation of your community problem integrating material from online sources (e.g., magazines, newspapers, etc.) in order to bring the problem to life for the reader. (approximately 1 page)

II. Theory. This section should address the question “**What community psychology theories and concepts facilitate an understanding of your community problem?**”. Choose **three** theories or conceptual frameworks to apply to your community problem. Theories can include: Ecological levels of analysis, Ecological principles, Behavior settings, Sense of Community, Narratives, Stress and Coping theory, Empowerment theory, Oppression theory, Acculturation theory, etc.. (approximately 2-3 pages)

III. Description of the Organization. Provide a brief overview of the organization with an emphasis on a description of the intervention and action approaches utilized. (approximately 1-2 pages)

IV. Analysis of Approaches. This section should discuss how the programs and activities of the organization are or are not consistent with intervention and action strategies in community psychology. How could you describe the intervention in community psychology terms? (see, for example, Gulotta, Checkoway, and DEW Chapters 9-13). Be sure to identify the LOA reflected in each intervention approach. In addition, use community psychology ideas to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the intervention strategies. (approximately 3 pages)

V. Conclusion. Construct a 1-2 paragraph conclusion for your paper. (approximately ½ page)