

Issue Paper and Presentation – Group Project

EPC 620 – Counseling in College Student Services

M.A. Simon, Instructor - Spring 2005

Issue Paper

The purpose of this individual paper is to develop an issue or topic of interest from the field of Student Affairs. The topic should be narrow enough to cover well in an approximately **10-12 page paper**, yet broad enough to provide different perspectives to consider. Each topic needs to be approved by your instructor.

You will form **teams of three** (unless student numbers necessitate otherwise), identify a broad topic and each person on the team take one area of that issue or topic. You will be evaluated as a group and all given the same grade the presentation. This encourages you to build a productive team where all are contributing team members. Everyone has different strengths and different levels of motivations; this is true in class as well as in the field of Student Affairs. Your research paper will be individually graded.

Begin the paper by presenting a question to be answered in the area of the Student Affairs profession. Start by briefly defining and describing your topic of interest. It is helpful for many students to begin with a question about something you wish to know more about. From the Student Affairs/College Counseling literature, discuss what others have studied or researched about this topic. This is not meant to be an integrative or comprehensive literature review; you need to find, address and discuss some key articles from the area of your topic or issue. Different perspectives about the topic in the literature are acceptable and, in fact, are desirable. Address what may be some possibilities or predictions or future desirable research for this issue in the future. This, and the conclusion that includes your reaction to the topic or issue, should come from your educated perspectives in the area.

Include headings and sub-headings as well as non-sexist language in your paper. This will also guide you in writing the paper. Cite your references used in APA format. Use current references other than to present (where appropriate) an historical perspective.

Topic due: March 9, 2005
Outline due electronically: April 6, 2005
Paper is due: May 4, 2005 *(Worth 25% of the course grade.)*

Issue Presentation

The purpose of the presentation is to educate your classmates about your issue or topic of interest. Plan (and practice) your presentation so that it lasts about 8 (\pm 2) minutes *per person*. Be creative; DO NOT READ! Use some form of visual aid for maximum credit (Power Point, transparency, poster, web page, etc.) You may make the presentation interactive if you so desire, but please still adhere to the time frame given. Be prepared. Practice in front of others. Focus on both content and deliver.

Each team member will select one key article you used for your paper for distribution on May 4. Make a copy for each student in the class as well as for your instructor – or send an e-mail with the link for an electronic copy of the article. Write your name at the top of the page and be sure the complete citation is on the copy as well.

Prepare a one page handout that outlines your presentation and provides some references on the topic. Please bring sufficient copies for all.

Article for distribution in class due (with sufficient copies for all): **May 4**
Presentation date: **May 11 or May 18** *(10% of the course grade.)*

Presentation List for EPC 620

Team

- May 19:**
- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 5. ???