

## Field Research Paper

# of pages (double-spaced)	
5-8	3 points
9-12	4 points
13+	5 points

The effectiveness of Social Work practice is predicated on the ability to gather, study and assess existing research and literature related to a specific topic, issue, or need. It is important that social work students gain experience in this process. In the past several decades social work research has come of age. Social work research has investigated most every type of social concern or dilemma.. The information gained from this research and experience is vital to social workers in the delivery of services, the development of programs, and in the development and expansion of the social work knowledge base.

The width and breadth of this project will vary. The key to the successful accomplishment of this assignment is in choosing a topic one is truly interested in or feels passionate about. This always makes the research more meaningful and engaging.

Completion of the assignment requires:

1. Choose a social work topic related the needs of the field practicum agency.
2. Research the topic through a review of current literature.
3. Prepare the written research paper in the following format:
  - a. Prepare an **Abstract** (overview of the paper) in approximately 2-3 solid paragraphs, less than one page in length, containing your hypothesis.
  - b. Prepare an **Introduction** stating the intentions of your paper including some history if necessary
  - c. Prepare a **Literature Review** which includes a description of the current research, hypotheses, and arguments on the topic.
  - d. Prepare **Conclusions or Summary** through a written analysis of the information gained in the literature review.
  - e. Prepare a written **Bibliography**
4. Submit completed assignment to Field Instructor for review.
5. Submit completed assignment with dated signature of Field Instructor to Faculty Field Liaison.

### Examples:

- The interaction of a sibling system with a parent system when alcohol is abused by all family members.
- Families with chronic physical illness: helping them cope.

- Dealing with transition: marriage, parenting, adolescence, young adults, divorce, blended families, and aging parents – as examples.
- Disorganized patterns of attachment in parents and how this effects family reunification.

References:

Engel, Rafael J. and Schutt, Russell K. 2014. *Fundamentals of Social Work Research. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.* Sage: Thousand Oaks, CA.

Pomeroy, Elizabeth. 2014. *Clinical Assessment Workbook: Balancing Strengths and Differential Diagnoses. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.* Cengage: United States.

Rubin, Allen and Babbie, Earl R. 2014. *Essential research Methods for Social Work. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition.* Cengage Learning: United States.