

Review and Written Analysis of a Current Issue in Social Work

(points = 2; required length of paper 5-6 pages, double-spaced)

The field of social work experiences constant change which is influenced by trends in the political arena, public perception, public and private fiscal resources, legislative initiatives, and local, national or international events. Ultimately, these influences are realized in opportunities and challenges for program growth, maintenance, and/or the elimination of resources, staff, and programs.

Social workers at all levels of service (micro, mezzo, and macro) have a responsibility to participate in the response to societal problems. The first step in social activism and advocacy is an awareness of the issues and knowledge of public policies, social justice issues (i.e. institutional racism) and other matters impacting people including disadvantaged persons.

Here are some of the ways for social workers to stay informed of important issues:

1. Join professional social work organizations like NASW
2. Become certified or licensed
3. Subscribe to professional newsletters and journals
4. Sign-up for relevant e-mail mailing lists
5. Stay current with media through newspapers, the Internet and television
6. Attend conferences, workshops and professional meetings
7. Participate in professional networks and consortiums
8. Read current social work publications

Assignment Summary:

The objective of this assignment is to stimulate critical thinking related to an important public policy issue and/or issue related to social work practice.

1. Review one or more articles related to a public policy or issue related to one area of social work practice. (References should be cited).
 2. Summarize the article(s) in content and position taken by the authors.
 3. Analyze the fundamental issue incorporating your ideas and opinions related to the topic area. Speculate on the outcomes due to new implementations or changes in federal, state, or local changes.
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Klinenberg, Eric. 2003. Heat Wave: A Social Autopsy of Disaster in Chicago. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Romero, Mary, Preston, Valerie and Giles, Wenoma. 2014. When Care Work Goes Global: Locating the Social Relations of Domestic Work (Gender In a Global/Local World. UK-Dorset: Henry King Limited.