

## Summary of Student-Client Relationship

(Summary of the relationship issues present in working with a client of a differing Race, Ethnicity, Culture, Sexual Orientation, Age, Socio-economic Status or Religion)

Points	# of pages double-spaced
1	2-4
2	5+

**Note: For the purpose of this assignment please change the names, DOB's, addresses, phone numbers, places of employment, name of agency and any other information that may link this report to the client. You can use the "find and replace" feature of Word to make these changes easily.**

Social work practitioners provide services to a variety of client populations. Frequently these clients differ from the practitioner in race, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, age, socio-economic status or religion. It is imperative that those in the helping professions have sensitivity to these differences. Without this sensitivity, it is difficult, if not impossible, to develop a therapeutic relationship with clients. The development of a therapeutic relationship is crucial to the successful achievement of treatment goals.

This assignment challenges student-interns to think of clients in the context of their background and orientation. Students should approach their work with clients from a strength-based perspective and should make every attempt to build on these strengths in the development of the intervention plan. Self-determination should always be valued and respected (Saleeby, 2012).

### Outline of assignment:

1. Describe your professional involvement with a client from a differing background and discuss creative strategies used to assist in the positive development of a therapeutic relationship.
2. Discuss the challenges and obstacles in the development of a therapeutic relationship when the aforementioned differences exist.
3. Discuss any misconceptions the client or you had about one another in the early part of the professional relationship and discuss how these were addressed.
4. Discuss the strengths of this client system and how these strengths can be utilized in the development of a successful intervention plan.
5. Discuss your strategies for overcoming any obstacles you were faced with in working with this client system and document your success.

**Reference:** Saleebey, D. (2012). *The Strengths perspective in social work practice*. New York: Longman.