**UnSt 421**

**Final Reflection Paper**

This summary reflection paper is an opportunity to evaluate what you learned from the course and community-based learning experience and how you intend to approach opportunities to be a change agent in the future. This final version should be in the form of a professional paper, so there should be no grammatical or spelling mistakes, and text should be clear and concise. The final reflection paper should be a total of 6-8 pages in length (1-inch margins, 12-pt font, double-spaced, APA style). Include at least 10 references, at least five of which should be from peer-reviewed sources. If you created documents, summary papers, surveys, or other products for your CBL site, please include these in an appendix.

This paper should take feedback from your mid-term reflection/outline into consideration. As you did for your mid-term reflection, please include the following sections in your final paper:

**Introduction** – Place your project in the context of the University Studies Goals. PSU’s mission, the outcomes of the course, the PSU community, and the broader society. Why did you choose to work specifically with this organization? Why is your project important? What is your understanding of the change that needs to be implemented?

**Research** –Analyze the social, economic and political inequities impacting the health of people served by the organization you are working with (ie: vulnerable and social disadvantaged population of your interest). Your paper should involve critical analyses with data documenting the current disparities with policy and program recommendations to address the social determinants of health and reduce or eliminate health disparities.

**Project Summary** – Tell the story of your project.

* Include the history of your organization (when and why was it established and to whom do they provide service). The overall philosophy and/or mission of your organization.
* Include a synopsis of your work with the community and your responsibilities as a volunteer.
* What actions have you taken, what products have you made, etc?
* Explain what you have accomplished in your community engagement experience, what you learned, and how it connects to the course literature (cite the course readings as appropriate).
* Focus not just on accomplishments or activities, rather what insights you gained from the experience. (You may want to review your initial learning objections/project proposal to see what you did or did not accomplish). Would your community partner/organization site agree with this assessment? If you met with your supervisor, include any challenges or questions you’ve run into.
* Images would be a great addition here. Be sure to ask the site their policy on taking pictures.

**Reflection** - Have you been able to apply any knowledge, theories, and/or skills learned in class to your service activities?  Are you able to take your experiences at your CBL site back into the classroom for use in discussions, papers, and other class activities? Review your initial plan to implement and effect change. Have these expectations changed? How? Why? Other questions to reflect on in your paper include;

* Did you achieve the intended course outcomes listed on the syllabus? If so, please describe in detail how this was accomplished and the specifics of what you learned. If not, why not, and how might you achieve these objectives in the future?
* What were your three most significant learnings or insights gained from this class and why? These could be based on the readings, discussions, CBL experience, site staff, other students, PowerPoints, assignments and other course materials.
* Given these new insights gained, how do you intend to approach these issues in the future?
* What did you gain, if anything, from this experience? What was the most rewarding part of this process for you? What would you do differently?
* What questions remain unanswered?

You should clearly demonstrate your recognition of the four University Studies Goals and how you plan to make meaning of and show the importance of their role in meeting the unmet needs of the community. For example, explain how each goal impacts the decisions you make and the impact of your work. You should define what your organization’s culture is (diversity), the thought process in making your goal(s) choice (critical thinking) and the effective communication skills (communication) and the quality of service necessary to achieve these goals (social responsibility). In regard to discussing critical thinking, you might describe how an assignment challenged your preconceived ideas about a topic. Please clearly refer to these assignments or discussions in the paper.

Notes:

As you write and shape your paper, think about how best to organize it.  Does it make more sense to order the information chronologically?  From most to least important point? From struggles to breakthroughs?  In other words, don’t just free associate.  Organize your paper into a logical order that best fits the points you are trying to make and be sure to cover content from each of the headings listed above (introduction, research, etc.).

This paper is about what you *learned* not about what you *liked*. This assignment is an opportunity for you to clearly document the work you have accomplished in this course. It is a tool to help connect your lived experiences with effecting change. It should detail the process you followed from establishing connections with your community partner to your final reflective thoughts on the change you effected or hoped to affect.