

## **Solutions to Poverty Project Description** **HDFS 365 Family Resource Management**

Guided by Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Theory, the Solutions to Poverty Project will engage the entire class in developing potential solutions to poverty that are supported by empirical research and a family resource management perspective. Upon completion of this project, students will have synthesized course material to meet all course objectives.

1. Teams will identify a wide range of potential solutions to poverty using Bronfenbrenner's ecological theory. A professional from the field will speak with students about their perspective on a variety of solutions to poverty and what they will be looking for in the students' presentations.
2. The class will choose which specific topic within poverty to examine for the semester. Specific topics are listed and described below:
  - a. **Poverty and Mental Illness**

Families with mental illness are a vulnerable group who are at an increased risk of living in poverty. These families experience social stigma, discrimination, and limited accessibility to treatment that serve as barriers to functioning to the fullest of their abilities in society. Keywords to consider: poverty, social class, low-income, mental health, psychological health, policy, and advocacy.
  - b. **Poverty and Domestic Violence**

Many families who live in poverty are also victims of domestic violence. Domestic violence can be considered a cause (e.g., barrier to employment, loss of financial resources) and/or consequence of poverty (e.g., financial strain and family conflict). Keywords to consider: domestic violence, domestic abuse, poverty, low-income, policy, and advocacy.
  - c. **Poverty and Education**

There is a strong connection between educational achievement and economic disadvantage. Families with less education often experience fewer occupational advances compared to families with higher levels of education. Research suggests that education is a leading factor that is widening the gap between poor families and non-poor families. Keywords to consider: education, educational standards, education reform, poverty, low-income, reform, policy, and advocacy.
  - d. **Poverty and Discrimination**

Discrimination based on gender, race/ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other category of difference has an impact on the economic opportunities of families. Discrimination, social stigma, and inaccurate stereotypes are interwoven into societal institutions such as families, schools, work settings, and government policies, negatively impacting families' lives on a regular basis. Keywords to consider: discrimination, racial discrimination, minorities, inequality, poverty, low-income, policy, and advocacy.
  - e. **Poverty and Affordable Housing**

Affordable housing is a growing problem among families living in poverty. Low-income families have difficulties paying for housing and poverty is strongly related to homelessness. Housing assistance programs are limited, leaving many families on their own to find housing. Keywords to consider: Affordable housing, homelessness, poverty, low-income, policy, and advocacy.

3. Once the topic is selected, teams will be assigned to one of five systems that reflect the Ecological model and then choose a specific solution to poverty to focus on for the semester. The solution may already exist (i.e., program or policy) or the team may invent a new solution. Either way, you need use research and a FRM perspective to support why your proposed solution to poverty would help eliminate or reduce poverty for families in the United States.
4. For weeks 6-10, students will then be expected to find a peer-reviewed research article that relates to their Solution to Poverty Project. In teams, we will share what we have learned and complete an IN-CLASS activity on relevant articles. Every WEDNESDAY, you should come to class with a PDF, completed matrix for the article, and APA citation of the article. All articles should be relevant to FRM, assigned ecological system, and the chosen SPP topic.
5. Teams will create a team research matrix and complete APA reference list that summarizes the most relevant articles identified in weeks 6-10. Each student will then individually write a 6-7 page research paper (not including title page and references) that includes these sections: (a) Introduction, (b) Topic Related to Poverty, (c) Application to Ecological Theory, (d) Proposed Solution to Poverty, and (f) Conclusion. A minimum of 10 reputable references are required and at least 5 need to be scholarly journal articles. A Project Template is provided on L@S to assist with writing and completing this assignment.
6. Student presentations of completed research papers will be conducted in teams. A power point or prezi of the main points and references will be presented to the class. Points are only given for students who make presentations with their team. A professional from the field will evaluate students' presentations and provide immediate feedback to the teams for a discussion.

Running head: SHORT TITLE OF PAPER (50 CHARACTERS OR LESS)

[Title of Paper]

[Student Name]

[School]

[Course/Number]

June 10, 2015

[Instructor Name]

Running head: SHORT TITLE OF PAPER (50 CHARACTERS OR LESS)

[Title of Paper Goes Here (same as main title, not bolded)]

[The introduction of the paper goes here. Be sure to include: engaging introduction to the topic, how the topic relates to Ecological Theory and a Family Resource Management (FRM) perspective, an effective thesis statement (related to headings), and supporting citations.]

### **Topic Related to Poverty**

[In this section you will use research to describe how the topic the class is addressing this semester relates to poverty (i.e., poverty and mental illness, poverty and domestic abuse, etc). Explain how the topic connects with the problem of poverty and a FRM perspective covered in class. For example, if class is addressing poverty and mental illness, you could connect mental illness with Step 2 of the FRM model, specifically the concept of human capital.]

[NOTE FOR ALL SECTIONS: Begin each section with a topic sentence. Be hyper diligent about making sure each section fits with the topic sentence AND that the whole thing fits with your thesis in a clear, logical way. Remember to cite and to avoid direct quotes. End with a good transition sentence that helps us see how this section fits with the next one.]

### **Application to Ecological Theory**

[In this section, you will locate the topic, problem, and potential solutions within the Ecological Model. The first paragraph will be written as a class, providing a summary of how ecological theory helps describe the topic, problems, and solutions associated with poverty. The second paragraph will be written individually and will describe the system your team has been assigned to in more detail. For example, if you've been assigned the macrosystem, this second paragraph will provide a detailed description of the problems with and solutions to poverty at this systemic level.]

### **Proposed Solution to Poverty**

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[In this section, you will describe and explain your team's proposed solution to poverty, using research, ecological theory, and FRM perspective to support your statements. Your proposed solution will be specific to one system of the ecological model. The solution can be a solution that already exists (i.e., program, policy, etc) or it can be a new idea developed by your group. Either way, you need to use research to support why your proposed solution to poverty would help eliminate or reduce poverty for families in the United States.]

### **Conclusion**

[This is the where the conclusion of your paper goes. Look at the introduction again as the introduction and conclusion are twins – two versions of a very similar thing. As such, you should reinforce how your thesis was supported by information in your paper sections. Remind the reader how this information relates to Ecological Theory and a FRM perspective, and end with a strong restatement of your thesis (might use modified wording).]

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### **References**

A minimum of 10 reputable references and at least 5 need to be scholarly journal articles.

Hanging indent for all references. To keep this format, simply place the cursor at the front of this line and paste or type your reference material. Then press enter. Remember to organize your references alphabetically. Remember to delete this line of text and any other template text before submitting your paper.