

Research Essay and Policy Paper

Assignment overview
HSVC 213 & BIOL 212

This is a linked research assignment between your Health and Human Services Policy and Human Biology courses. We have linked these two assignments so that Human Services students can see how basic scientific knowledge of human physiology can contribute to their social work practice. For this paper, your Research Essay will serve as part of the introduction of your Policy Paper.

Your Research Essay and Policy Paper assignment is scaffolded, meaning that it has been divided up into small pieces that you will complete in both HSVC 213 and BIOL 212 over the next several weeks. Dividing up the assignment this way allows multiple check in points and opportunities for feedback from Drs. Saint-Louis and Fuller, as well as your peers. If you follow the assignment timeline, stay on task and meet the deadlines, you have a very good shot at doing well on this assignment. **Please keep in mind that the Research Paper is 20% of your total grade in BIOL 212 and 30% of your grade in HSVC 213.** These percentages are a combination of all of the smaller assignments leading up to and including the final paper and presentation to be completed during Final Exam week. Your final paper will be scored using the common rubric included in this packet.

Final Paper General Guidelines:

- APA Format (6th ed.)
- Research Essay: 5 – 7 pages; minimum of 3 scholarly sources
- Policy Paper: 10 – 12 pages; minimum of 8 scholarly sources
- Cover Page and Bibliography are required.

Sample Topics

Although you can propose the topic of your choice, we have worked together to come up with a set of examples of topics that span both courses for your consideration.

Policy Paper	Research Essay
Childhood Obesity	Fat metabolism in the human body
Food Access/SNAP allotments	
General Obesity	
Infant Mortality	The role of folate and vitamin D in fetal development
Birth Defects	
Disability Issues	Description of causes and treatments for specific disabilities
HIV/AIDS	Disease infection and transmission
Chronic Disease (i.e. diabetes, heart disease)	Causes and treatments for specific chronic disease
Homelessness	Issues associated with general health and wellness
Substance Abuse	Effects of drugs on body physiology
Mental Health	Neurological causes to brain disorders

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Access to Healthcare	Contextual discussion about homeostasis
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Assignment Overview

Specific days and times and additional assignment details will be announced in their respective classes.

Week of April 4	Statement of the problem (HSVC)
Week of April 11	Writing Research Questions (BIOL)
Week of April 18	Media & Academic References (HSVC)
	Finding Sources (BIOL)
Week of May 2	Proposing Solutions (HSVC)
	Research Proposal (BIOL)
Week of May 9	Pulling It All Together – Policy Statements (HSVC)
	Working Abstract (BIOL)
Week of May 16	Introduction and Background & Peer-Review (BIOL)
Week of May 30	Revision (HSVC)
	First Draft of Research Essay (BIOL)
Week of June 6	Peer Review (HSVC)
	Revision (BIOL)
Week of June 13	Final Research Essay and Policy Paper due (HSVC & BIOL)

Paper Organization

- I. Cover Page
- II. Introduction
 - a. Hook Paragraph
- III. Background
 - a. Research essay introductory paragraphs
 - b. Research essay body
 - c. Research essay conclusion paragraph
- IV. Executive Summary
- V. Body of Policy Paper
- VI. References Page