Individual Allyship Paper – 20% Due: Before Our Week 9 Class at 10:00 am 1

Becoming an Ally Project

Note: this Assignment will be submitted in Two Parts throughout the semester.

This project is in lieu of a final exam. It includes two parts. The project is asking you to begin to understand and demonstrate how you will become an ally in the field of Child and Youth Care and the broader field of social services. As we have learned in this course, being an ally is an important way to address oppression and promote equity and social justice. Allyship is continuous learning and this assignment is just the beginning of developing a plan to become an ally.

If we want to develop effective partnerships and coalitions, we need to learn how to be active allies to various individuals and communities. If we want people to stand up for our concerns and interests, we need to understand and stand up for theirs. If we want to make changes in society so that oppression is not acceptable, we need to learn how to work together as each other's allies.

Part 1 will ask you to address your own personal learning in the course in regards to your own identity. It will also ask you to begin the stages to develop a plan/toolkit for you to become an ally. Part 2 is a group format, and will ask you to present an allyship plan for a specific community.

Part 1: Individual Paper

DUE DATE: Before our Week 9 Class at 10:00 am GRADE VALUE: 20%

This paper is intended to help students identify their social identity and location, and how that might impact the clients they work with. It is also an opportunity to move their invisible and unconscious privilege or oppression into visibility. The goal is that this awareness will enhance the student's anti- oppression practice.

TASKS: Referring directly to the course articles, resources and knowledge you have acquired from class, you will:

o Write a paper that is a minimum of 4 pages (**plus** Title and Reference page) reflecting on your own social identity and the questions below. Self-awareness is a critical tool of anti-oppressive social services work. Mullaly's *Unpacking Our Knapsacks of Invisible Privilege* article will help here. * 4 pages is assuming APA 7 format: 12' font, double spaced, standard margins. It is acceptable to exceed 4 pages, if your work is not repetitive and is well written.

o Use language that is reflective of anti-oppression or empowerment, rather than everyday language. You have been practicing this in class and your journal writing.

o Integrate**atleast2articles**fromthecoursereadingsthroughdirectcitationsorreferences. This does not mean 2 quotes, it means 2 different articles! The Mulally Chapters 10 and 7 can be considered 2 different articles if you use them separately.

o The paper format and citations will be APA, student version 7(see our Learn@Seneca page and the Library website for resources).

1. Begin with an introduction that describes the paper and identifies any key terms or definitions you think are important from the outset. Remember to cite, even if you paraphrase. You may also decide to describe what it was like to write the paper or what you have learned, in a general sense.

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2. Choose **2** of the following characteristics or social identity dimensions and reflect on your perceptions of yourself in relation to the dominant or privileged group and your social identity (The *Wheel of Privilege* activity might help here). Mullaly's article *"The Web"* is recommended here, especially the taxonomies of privilege.
   Think of the 'isms'.
   If you are part of the privileged group, discuss that. If you have experienced discrimination, or been discriminatory, discuss that. The point is to discuss your own personal social location/identity.
   - Social class (past and present)
   - racialized identity
   - biological sex and/or gender
   - age
   - first language or language preference
   - sexual orientation
   - religion/faith
   - ability/[dis]ability/health
   - national origin
   - relationship status
   - occupation status
   - education
   - family type and background
3. Identify and discuss two dimensions of the current aspects of your social identity that might have a potential impact on your future work with children, youth or families. These can be two additional dimensions, or may be the two you have already discussed. Consider people you might work with who may be "othered" or members of oppressed groups. This impact can be either positive or negative.
4. Discuss the following questions related to Allyship (write in paragraph form):
   - What is the difference between being an ally and/or an advocate?
   - When would you have liked to have been a better ally for a person or group and what kept
     you from being that?

- What biases have you discovered or are you currently bringing to your work as an ally?
- Describe any population with which it may be difficult for you to work and analyze the reason
  for this. State whether this is something that you feel that you should overcome, and if so,
  what you might do to make it easier for you to work with this population.
- Identify your motivation: what are your sources of ongoing motivation going work as an
  ally?

5. Create a final paragraph as a conclusion. This is an opportunity to sum up your learning, your new awareness or the process of writing the paper.
6. Ensure your Reference Page follows APA format and includes all material cited, either direct quotes or paraphrased.
7. Once you have proofread your paper ONE MORE TIME and reviewed the rubric, submit your paper by posting on the Assignment section of Learn@Seneca, through Safe Assign.

Remember, you are only **choosing 2** of these characteristics to apply to you and your own life. Jewell's *This Book is Anti-Racist* and Mulally's Chapter 10 *Unpacking our Knapsack...* may be helpful resources for definitions or the concept of how to apply these.

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Only papers submitted through Safe Assign will be graded.

Requirement Summary: Length: 4 pages (not including cover page, or reference page), double- spaced, professional presentation, in APA student version 7 format and including a cover page and reference list with proper in-text citations.

Remember, *any work that is not your own original idea must be cited. This includes ideas in your own words taken from the articles or PowerPoints.*

Please refer to the SENECA LIBRARY at https://seneca.libguides.com/apa on how to use APA In-text citation and reference format.

It is expected that you will demonstrate academic and professional writing skills. Please notice the rubric deduction *Writing Mechanics*. Seneca Libraries also has writing assistance available, by appointment.