

Week 2 Assignment: Exploration of Social Justice

Assignment Instructions: To complete this assignment:

Choose a social justice problem that addresses the needs of a specific population or subgroup that interests you. Use the Internet, United States Congress website, or any relevant state or local website that provides policy and social justice information to help guide your research.

Social Problem: People with substance use disorders are often treated as criminals instead of individuals with a medical condition. This leads to incarceration, stigma, and barriers to treatment.

After you have chosen a problem, write a 4–6 page exploration of the topic and address the following:

- Analyze the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination of your chosen population or subgroup that exist within this social justice topic (for example, based on race, religion, disabilities, gender orientation, socioeconomic status, or access to services).
 - In your analysis, describe how the oppression and discrimination impacted this population or subgroup.
 - Support this with data on the number of people affected that you have found during your research.
- Analyze ethical problems associated with your selected social justice problem.

- Use the *NASW Code of Ethics* web page, to guide your analysis:
 - What ethical considerations in your selected social justice problem must be addressed?
 - What are implications for social work practice and positive client outcomes?
- Describe the current enacted policies for this social justice problem.
 - Research current enacted policies that seek to address this social justice problem. **Important:** These policies must be passed legislation currently in practice. Legislation can be at the local, state, or federal level.
- Analyze how effective these policies are in addressing the needs of your chosen population or subgroup.
 - Do the policies effectively address the social justice problem? Provide a rationale that includes scholarly, peer-reviewed research.
- Assess the impact these policies have had on your selected population or subgroup.
 - What policy constraints exist for this population or subgroup?
- Compare advocacy methods for the selected social justice problem.
 - What are the strengths and challenges of the advocacy methods? What additional steps could be taken to address the challenges?

Additional Requirements

The assignment you submit is expected to meet the following requirements:

- **Written communication:** Written communication is free of errors that detract from the overall message.
- **APA formatting:** Resources and citations are formatted according to current APA style and formatting standards.
- **Cited resources:** A minimum of five scholarly sources. Most literature cited should be current, with publication dates within the past five years.
- **Length of paper:** 4–6 typed, double-spaced pages.
- **Font and font size:** Times New Roman, 12 point.