

Case Study Seven

Reflection on a Text – Social Work*

Task Description: Personal and professional reflection on an Aboriginal autobiography in the context of belonging and identity

Weighting: 40%

Level: Undergraduate or postgraduate

Outline and instructions:

Social workers need to be able to reflect critically on personal reactions and to draw connections between personal experiences and wider knowledge about social issues. You will have the opportunity to develop these skills through this assignment. We also want you to see how autobiographies can support your learning.

Choose an autobiography written by an Aboriginal person from the course list. As you read the autobiography, note your reactions to it honestly – positive and negative responses, surprises, bits that are interesting and those that are not. These initial notes are for your own records. You do not need to submit these notes with your assignment.

The assignment you submit should be in four parts:

1. *Personal reactions:* An exploration and summary of your own reactions to situations in the Autobiography. How do your reactions relate to attitudes in Australian society that are embedded in our socialization through education, media, family and government systems?
2. *Belonging and identity:* How does the autobiography relate to the issue of belonging (at individual, family, community and social levels) and the development of identity? How does the sense of belonging and identity, as expressed by the person in the story, compare to your own?
3. *Privilege and disadvantage:* How can people from privileged groups in society come to understand the experiences of those who are from groups that are devalued?
4. *Social work values and ethics:* Explain how social work values and ethics (e.g. social justice, human dignity and worth) relate to issues and experiences presented in the autobiography.

Your assignment should include references to relevant literature to support the points you make.

Marking Criteria:

- Critical awareness of and ability to articulate your own responses to stories of indigenous experience.
- Understanding of inequality and power in Australian society, particularly in relation to race.
- Understanding of the factors that contribute to identity and belonging, relating this understanding to own experiences and to another's experience.
- Understanding of social work values and the commitment to social justice and equity.
- Evidence of reading and integration of appropriate literature.
- Clear structure and presentation and accurate referencing.

* Adapted from: p53 http://www.olt.gov.au/system/files/resources/QAF%20FINAL%20doc%20for%20print_0.pdf

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Workshop Rebuild

Workshop Participants:

Georgina Sanger (GU), Philip Baker (QUT), Kevin Ashford-Rowe (ACU), Glenda Jacobs (UQ), Caroline Steel (SCU)

Identified Problem Areas:

- All aspects of the assignment are mono-modal (text based only).
- Students don't need to talk about the assignment, they just need to submit it.
- Students don't need to register which topic they choose or justify their choice.
- There is no process to demonstrate identity or authenticate authorship.
- Giving students a list of autobiographies to choose from makes it easier for the contract cheater.
- There is no formative feedback or scaffolding to improve performance; it is just a summative task.

Redesign of the Assessment Task:

- Put intermediate steps into the assignment (e.g., discussion or interaction with peers with a submitted reflection on the discussion) to provide more feedback opportunities and checking steps.
- Perhaps when they choose the autobiography they could be asked to relate their choice of autobiography to their own life (although there are still vulnerabilities in that).
- Ask students to provide a video response that they can annotate and possibly attach their own photographs to link their response to their life.
- If this is for a large class (with workload constraints of large class), students could do some kind of peer review process.
- The assignment could use a distributed template that has certain mechanical aspects to give authorship clues along the way (e.g., properties of document, hidden graphic etc.), which can raise the flag to examiners if they are missing.