

Southern Adventist University  
School of Social Work and Family Studies

Reflection Paper #1

By

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**Article Summary**

The articles covered dealt with whether or not individuals were suitable or non-suitable for a career in social work. The first article dealt with a study conducted in England in which several institutions of higher learning were contacted and questioned as to how they determined whether a student was suitable to be in the field of training. The second article dealt with Ethics and gave several definitions of each and how they could be used in the field of study. The third article detailed a summary of the major principals of the NASW code of ethics and explained outlined examples of each which was helpful in understanding how the core values played a part in each.

**Critique**

It was a little difficult to understand the articles with little or no knowledge in the social work field but I believe they were connected in that the code of ethics that a social worker must follow starts when they first enter the program in their school. On every syllabus that I received on my first day of orientation it gave guidelines that must be followed and several of them were directly related to this field of study including honesty and hard work. All of the readings have emphasized that professional ethics are the core of the social workers ability to perform the job at hand. I did like the fact that even though a student may be able to come into the school and make perfect grades did not mean that that student would make a good social worker. What I took away from the readings was that of course you have to be able to pass the required classes there are several other factors that will come into play to determine if you are suitable or not suitable to perform the social workers functions.

**Reflection**

After reading the assigned articles I have come to understand that staying in the social work curriculum may be harder than I had first believed. I did however find it intriguing that in England several schools have policies in which they can remove students from the program for a variety of reasons. According to the article several schools were researched and a majority of them had policies in place in which to remove students from the program and academics were not the main reason. The issue at hand was whether a person was suitable to be in the program and whether they would be suitable for work as a social worker after completing school. Several issues were raised that could affect a student's status and several of them had to do with decisions that were made by the student whether on the school grounds or during personal time. A prime example of this would be if a student were to leave the school and go out drinking and then get a DUI. Here at Southern it would leave a sour image of the school in the news media and I'm sure they would handle the student involved quickly and severely. I believe the study done in the readings put a lot of emphasis on things other than grades and makes one realize that not just the decisions that they make within their studies impact their career but also the decisions they make while outside of school and in their personal life. The article stated they seven programs had policies that even let outside individuals file complaints with the schools about the students. This ensures that even while outside of the school students will live up to the core values in which social workers are required to maintain. A social worker has to live up to high standards that are expected by society and the client. The articles brought several issues to light in which the core values play a role from the time one starts studying social work and continue throughout their career. Social workers must learn early on in their careers that honesty, patience and making the right decisions are an important part of their core values.

The NASW code of Ethics list several responsibilities of a social worker and how they are to conduct themselves. These responsibilities are not only the values in which a social worker is supposed to maintain but it helps build a relationship with the client in which he or she is working with. If a client sees on the news that their counselor was arrested and charged for a crime such as DUI, a drug offense or domestic violence then they will have a negative perception of the worker that can damage the relationship. From what I came to understand is that the core values that one must follow in their professional career such as honesty, Integrity and community service start from the moment you entered the front door here at Southern.