

Case Analysis Essay

Overview

Case analysis essays allow you to make connections between the concepts you learn in a health science class and the facts of an actual health case. In most cases, your professor will give you a case study that describes the facts of a particular health situation. Sometimes the case study will focus on a particular community or organization, though sometimes they may focus on the health of a single person. It's also possible that in some cases you may be asked to write a similar kind of essay in which you connect class concepts with your actual experiences in a clinical setting.

Content

After reading the case study you have been given carefully, or after studying your notes and memories of your clinical observation carefully, you should form opinions on the health-related strengths and weaknesses of the community, organization, or individual featured in the case study. What are they doing well? What resources do they have at their disposal? In what areas do they need to improve? What limitations do they face? This process of examining the facts of the case carefully to discern strengths and weaknesses is called analysis – taking something whole and seeing it for its parts. Once you reach some conclusions in response to these questions, you need to use what you have learned in class or what you have discovered via outside research to make evidence-based recommendations for how the object of the case study can capitalize on their strengths to improve upon their weaknesses. This is the main purpose of your essay. The process of linking learned knowledge to case facts is called synthesis, for you are bringing together (synthesizing) information to arrive at a new understanding.

Since this is an essay assignment, your document should present its content via introduction, body, and conclusion sections.

Introduction

Your introduction should provide a complete, objective, and accurate summary of the facts of the case study. Who does it focus on? What key facts does it present? What conclusions does it draw? What recommendations does it make, if any? Following the summary, you should provide a thesis statement in which you state the main purpose of your essay.

Body

Your body paragraphs should present logically organized responses to the question provoked in the mind of your reader by your thesis.

For example, if your thesis says “XYZ organization should takes steps A, B, and C in order to leverage their strengths to allow them to improve upon their weaknesses” then your readers would likely ask themselves the following question: “Why should XYZ organization take these steps?” or “How would these steps help XYZ make improvements?” Each section of your body should provide an evidence-based response to such questions.

Keep in mind, too, that body paragraphs should begin with topic sentences and transitions should be used between paragraphs to help readers see the relationship between each of your main points.

Conclusion

Your conclusion should remind your readers of what your recommendation has been, and it should also summarize the main points of support that you have offered in the body of your essay to defend your recommendation.

Audience

You should keep your professor in mind for this kind of document, for he or she is the one who will evaluate you on the assignment. However, your professor will be most interested on your demonstrated ability to communicate with an outside decision maker in the community, so you should imagine that’s who you are writing to with this document.

Language and Formatting

Because this is an academic essay, as opposed to a clinical document of some kind, you should format your document according to APA guidelines, and you should use semi-formal academic writing style.

Additional OWL Resources

- [Introductions and Conclusions](#)
- [Paragraphing](#)
- [APA Style](#)

Case Analysis Examples

- [Extended Stay Case Study](#)
- [The Ambulatory ICU](#)

