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Assignment: Policy Podcast

The United States is one of the wealthiest countries in the world, yet one in seven Americans live in poverty. In this assignment we'll investigate why policies haven't been able to eradicate poverty in the USA. How do anti-poverty policies work? What are individual experiences with these policies? Finally, how can we improve anti-poverty policies to better reduce poverty?

To examine this issue, you will work in a small group of approximately 3-5 people to prepare an informative and engaging 10-20 minute podcast that will be aired during class. The podcast can be created via Adobe Audition, which is available to you through Adobe Creative Cloud at SJSU (<https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/software-tools/teaching-tools/video-creative/adobe/students.php>). Your podcast must cover the following:

- A.) What do you know or not know about the anti-poverty policy you are studying? Why did you select this policy and why is it important for social workers to know more about it?
- B.) Present a quick informative overview of the policy that uses information from quality sources (a reference page must be turned in on the day of the class presentation). In addition to a main overview, each podcast should include a real or fictional "case" that has been impacted by the policy. For example, you could interview a person who uses SNAP, etc... and connect their experiences to your larger description and analysis of the program or policy. This strategy of connecting a real case to a larger picture is often used by journalists and advocates to help others understand the meaning, scope, and significance of their topic.
- C.) Propose changes to the policy or a radical new policy that you believe would be more successful in reducing poverty.

The podcasts will be presented towards the end of the semester (dates will be determined towards the beginning of the course). Examples of anti-poverty policies are TANF, SNAP, EITC, MediCal/Medicaid, etc. Each group will need to work on a different policy.

This assignment is worth 20 points and will be assessed via the below rubric.

Social Work Competencies	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Needs Improvement
Demonstration of professionalism and ethical behaviors (Group)	The podcast script and podcast itself are highly prepared, organized, thorough, and engaging. The presentation of material is professional, clear, and invites curiosity. (5 points)	The podcast script and performance are prepared and organized. The overall impression is professional, clear, and interesting. (3.5-4.5 points)	The podcast script and presentation are unclear and unprepared. The presentation style is less engaging and polished. (3 points or less)

Demonstration of professionalism and ethical behaviors (Individual)	Excellent evaluations from peers, demonstrates academic integrity (2 points)	Good or very good evaluations from peers, demonstrates academic integrity (1.5 points)	Fair to poor evaluations from peers and/or academic integrity issues (1 point or less)
Engaging diversity and difference in practice; Advancing human rights and social and economic justice	Complete, thorough, innovative, insightful, and analytical sections A and B as described above (7 points)	Complete and thorough sections A and B as described above, demonstrating analytic understanding of concepts (5-6.5 points)	Incomplete or less thorough sections A and B, uneven or missing analytic understanding (4.5 points or less)
Engage in policy practice	Section C of assignment is creative, thoughtful, innovative, and demonstrates excellent analytic understanding of the problem (6 points)	Section C of assignment is creative and thorough and demonstrates good or very good analytic understanding of the problem (4.5-5.5 points)	Section C of assignment is incomplete and/or lacking depth, creativity, understanding of problem (Less than 4.5 points)