**ASSIGNMENT #1: SHORT ISSUE PAPER**

The student will write a **four page paper** articulating why the selected topic is an issue for nursing that is relevant to cultural competency. This is a persuasive argument that supports/defends a thesis statement reflected in one of the course topics introduced in the media.

**GUIDELINES FOR WRITING THE TERM PAPER**

**A) Selecting an Issue**

Students will identify an issue in a current media source (online news website or social media site). Students are encouraged to look beyond regular news websites to look for controversial expressions of issues related to culture. For example, viral websites like buzzfeed may discuss an issue that could be used as a foundation for this assignment.

The issue selected must relate to content from the course and be clearly linked to cultural competency within the paper. Download or take a ‘screenshot’ of the identified media to include as an Appendix in your paper.

**B) Articulating the Issue (Paragraph 1)**

In your first paragraph:

* Articulate the issue by summarising the media source. Be accurate, objective and succinct.
* Identify the significance and relevance of the issue
* End the paragraph with a question or statement of a dilemma that will be the focus of the essay

This paragraph's last sentence will be the issue. In this paragraph you are summarizing the article/media and demonstrating how it identified an issue. This step will require critical thinking about what you have learned in the course.

**C) Framing the Issue (Paragraph 2)**

In the second paragraph provide some background information about the issue. You want to talk about current literature about the scope, nature and magnitude of the issue. Describe the issue (you do not provide supporting arguments here- because you have not yet put forward a thesis). Define terms, characteristics and context in nursing and Canada.

Finish the paragraph with your thesis statement on the issue. Your aim is to write the thesis statement (your opinion) so that it is clearly worded, concise and somewhat controversial. **The thesis statement is the crux of your essay.** A thesis is a proposition put forward and supported by arguments. That means that you need to take an assertive stance on the identified issue. The thesis is a debatable statement (i.e., there is an opposite thesis to the one that you have proposed). The thesis statement must be the final sentence of this second paragraph.

**D. Analyzing the Issue (Paragraphs 3, 4 and 5)**

Each of the next three paragraphs is a separate argument that supports the thesis. Present a critical analysis of literature that clearly and logically builds your argument (and therefore supports the thesis). Your goal is to persuade your course professor that your opinion (thesis statement) is reasonable and well supported (grounded in evidence).

You must include three paragraphs which describe three **different** arguments to support the thesis. Each of these three paragraphs will begin with the thesis statement followed by a “because…” statement that presents a different argument to directly defend the thesis. After stating your argument, defend it in the rest of the paragraph by using critical analyses and examples. The arguments may be historical, ethical, legal, social, cultural or political. However, each argument must be clearly distinct, relevant and directly support your thesis statement.

**E. Conclusion/Reinforcement (Paragraph 6)**

This final paragraph is a summary of the thesis statement and the three arguments. Your final sentences should include the significance of the issue to nursing and should leave the reader with some “food for thought” or a consideration to ponder.