Class Presentation Guidelines

All students will give an in-class presentation (“groups” of 1 or 2 depending on class size) on a specific topic related to the mental health field. Your presentation is expected to cover your topic in great detail (approximately 30-45 minutes) and should be in PowerPoint format (including additional handouts and facilitation of class discussion). On the next page there is a list topics that must be covered and suggested additional options. Each individual must rank their top 3 topics (at least 2 topics in the “must” category) and top 3 dates to present. This presentation accounts for 40% of your grade.

The following key points should be addressed as part of your presentation:

1) Introduce your topic and explain why it is relevant to the mental health field.

2) Present your topic… (Yes, that is it.) There is much flexibility here. It is up to you how you cover your topic as long as the other criteria are met. Of course, do your best to convey your presentation in a manner that can be easily understood by your peers.

3) Be sure to include questions and/or activities for the class to engage in (can be integrated within your presentation or at the end).

4) Remember: Your presentation should be 30-45 minutes. A significant portion of your presentation should be in PowerPoint format and additional handouts, beyond presentation slides, should be provided.

5) Presentation Observation - For all presentations, all students will be required to complete a presentation observation form. This exercise focuses more on what each student “got out of” each presentation, rather than a peer evaluation. This form will be provided on the first day of presentations. Your presentation observations account for 5% of your grade.

General Presentation Tips

--Speak clearly, slowly, and audibly.
--Take time to paraphrase your points.
--Try to avoid mechanically reading a verbatim account from the script. If reading from a script, pause frequently and paraphrase what you have said. (Rehearsal helps; familiarity with the material is best.)
--When you can, make references to the handout material. Audience members often better absorb information that is given slowly, in small units, punctuated by frequent pauses.
PROPOSED PRESENTATION TOPICS & DATES

--Individual presentation (possible group of 2 depending on class size)
--Goal is two presentations per date
--Rank your top 3 topics (at least 2 topics should be in the “must” category) and top 3 dates

Topics That Must Be Covered

Independent (Private) Practice with an LMHC
LMHC vs. LICSW vs. Ph.D./Psy.D.
Mental Health Counseling in School Settings (Adjustment Counselors)
Working in Outpatient Mental Health Settings
Working in Inpatient Settings (e.g., Residential, Psychiatric/Hospital)
Balancing Professional and Personal Life

Additional Topics for Consideration

Applying to Doctoral Programs
Job Opportunities in Government Agencies (e.g., DMH, DCF)
Job Opportunities in Legal Systems (e.g., DYS, Probation)
Career Counseling
College Counseling Centers
Legal & Ethical Issues in Practice

Dates

3/27
4/3
4/10
4/17
4/24