

PBJ 397 – PRACTICUM TERM PAPER

The purpose of your paper is to compare some of the theories you have learned in classes with actual practice in your fieldwork agency. The paper must not be a mere description of your agency experience or a summary of your forty-hour reports. It must be an analytical paper comparing theory, backed up with library research, with practice as you have observed it in your agency. Think of this paper as an integration and reflection of the relation between theory and actual practice in the field. You may wish to accept, reject or modify certain theories on the basis of your practicum experience. Alternatively, you may wish to use theories to explain or evaluate various aspects of your agency's mission, operation, or methods.

You may take various approaches to your paper. Depending on your interests, coursework, and the type of practicum you have done, you may wish to concentrate on management principles, social structures, subcultures, or theories of deviance or human development. Or you might wish to follow the flow of action through a public justice agency and relate it to the system as a whole, or you could deal with the concept of role, or various methods used in your agency, or various therapy models. You can choose to deal with concepts or theories which are of particular interest to you that you can relate to your agency experience.