

Rechelle B.
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Medical Bias and Gender Stereotypes (sample paper)

Introduction

Today, in the medical field many problems are still recurring from the past. There are different things that doctors, dentists, assistants to those, and nurses do not realize they are biased without even noticing or realizing it. Many factors are that they are discriminated against based on race, ethnicity, gender, or how they look, whether in name-brand clothes or clothes with stains and holes in them. People judge without even realizing it. This problem of discrimination is a problem because it is inhumane for someone to get treatment before someone else based on skin color or the way someone looks in general. Over my lifetime I have met many different people. I have always treated them equally to myself. I do not look at income or someone's position in life as superior. The way I look at someone is we all bleed the same and we have the same organs. We are equal, but I understand our differences, race/ethnicity, or gender.

Observation

My first incident was when I was pregnant with my oldest daughter. Of course, being a first-time mom was a scary thing. I had to have her two months early due to having preeclampsia. When I was in the process to have her, it was a complete mess, they did a procedure called Fully bulb induction. It is the midwife sticking a balloon in a woman's cervix to help them dilate and get ready for a natural birth. As they were doing it, the midwife did it completely wrong and caused complications. The midwife did not realize till later that the balloon was in wrong and all the times they told me to walk I kept telling them it hurts to the point I cannot walk. I felt as if my voice was not being heard. I was not able to have a natural birth due to it. I got rushed for an emergency c-section because my daughter's stats were going

down and when they cut me open my daughter was blue and not breathing. My daughter also had a weird rash on her, which was not normal from what the midwife said. The midwife asked me if I had herpes because the rash on my daughter looked like herpes. I told her I have only been with one man and no I do not have herpes. Because at the time we were not married I felt she was stereotyping me because of being a first-time young mom. The professionalism was not there and when my daughter was rushed to a pediatric hospital the first thing, I asked the pediatric hospital was about the rash. They told me it was a newborn rash and completely normal.

Literature Review

Just Medicine goes over the “prehistoric times of how racism came into the picture and how it has continued throughout centuries later.” (Matthews, 2015, p.9) The author Matthews made this” book based on her being a lawyer and her husband is a doctor. “Racism started with Europeans,” but in their words, “they were slaves to the Europeans.” (Matthews, 2015, p.10) Minorities were all treated differently compared to whites. Minorities lived in inhumane ways. (Matthews, 2015, p.11) Some of the ways they have lived is not having the proper hygiene to have good health. (Matthews, 2015, p.11) “When a slave owner knew one of his best men was sick and it was affecting his money, he would take charge and get him some proper care to see a doctor.” (Matthews, 2015, p.12) The slave owner did it to help himself not the slave. Though throughout the time “the civil rights law was kept, and things were finally able to take a turn for minorities to get equal rights on medical just the same as whites.” (Matthews, 2015, p.25)

An implicit bias is occurring it can occur to the person that they are doing it unconsciously. In the book, she says that we all show implicit bias in different forms. With doctors and patients portraying implicit biases, it can cause many issues. Those issues cause problems with health care for minorities. If a white doctor were to see an African American

patient the likelihood of them getting the same care as a white patient is not particularly good. Matthew explains that these are problems that are continuing and are getting better throughout the years. Matthew writes about how the inequality in health care has been a problem for minorities and the ways we as individuals can change it. She points out that there are “six mechanisms of implicit bias and how it affects medical decisions that could cost someone’s life.” (Matthews, 2015, p.78) “The first and second mechanism is, that a doctor shows a bias before even meeting the patient.” (Matthews, 2015, p.78) “The third and fourth are about the communication between the patient and doctor.” (Matthews, 2015, p.106) “The fifth and sixth mechanisms are about finding a diagnosis of the patient’s health and the patient’s bias on the decision the doctor has brought to the patient’s attention.” (Matthews, 2015, p.129) There are three ways to intervene against implicit bias. There are “types A, B, and C.” (Matthews, 2015, p.158) “Type A is before implicit bias has even occurred.” (Matthews, 2015, p.158) “Three things that the individual would have to do for type A.” (Matthews, 2015, p.159) “One is to stop before implicit bias occurs.” (Matthews, 2015, p.159) “Two is to remember your end goal and three is to take the bad habit out.” (Matthews, 2015, p.159) “Type B is promoting counter stereotypes to help reduce negative stereotypes.” (Matthews, 2015, p.161) “Type C is social and self-motivation.” (Matthews, 2015, p.163) “Type A and B interventions occur when mechanisms are one through four.” (Matthews, 2015, p.171) But” type C interventions occur between five and six.” (Matthews, 2015, p.171)

Discussion

Matthews’s theory to the problem that I had gone through I believe the midwife stereotyped me as being a young mother. The midwife was using statistical methods on asking me a personal question knowing in my records I had already taken a test and showed that I was

clean and that I had only been with one man. Because of this experience with the midwife and hospital, I decided to take matters into my own hands on my second child and leave that hospital.

When an individual is not being heard by your doctors or in my case my midwife, we feel discouraged and feel as if you are being neglected which you are by the people that are supposed to heal you. It is not only trauma, but it also makes the individual scared to go through that hurtful journey that is supposed to be happy when bringing life into the world. Going through the mechanisms of all six of them is what I went through.

With mechanism one, the midwife stereotyped my age before even meeting me. With mechanisms two, three, and four, the midwife brought statistical measures into the picture because of my age and thinking just because of being sexually active and I had noted to the hospital that I had only been with one person the midwife still asked a personal question that the answer was already on my file. Also, mechanism five the treatment is completely wrong and causes more harm than good from the balloon situation. Finally, in mechanism six, I completely lost all trust in that hospital. I went through the misery of not seeing my daughter for five days because I had to recuperate from the c-section, all while my daughter was at a pediatric hospital.

Conclusion

In conclusion, from reading *Just Medicine* all the mechanisms make sense, and knowing others go through it saddens me. Matthew goes into detail on the several types of implicit biases between a patient and doctor. She also talks about different scenarios of what was reported on discrimination. Matthew explains that three types of interventions can put a stop to implicit bias and what can come of it for a healthier society. Not only for the doctors but for the patients as

well. Although my situation is different from what others reported in the book. But I still felt connected to them and felt their pain on what they had gone through.

References

Matthew, D. B. (2015). *Just medicine: A cure for racial inequality in American health care*. New York University Press.

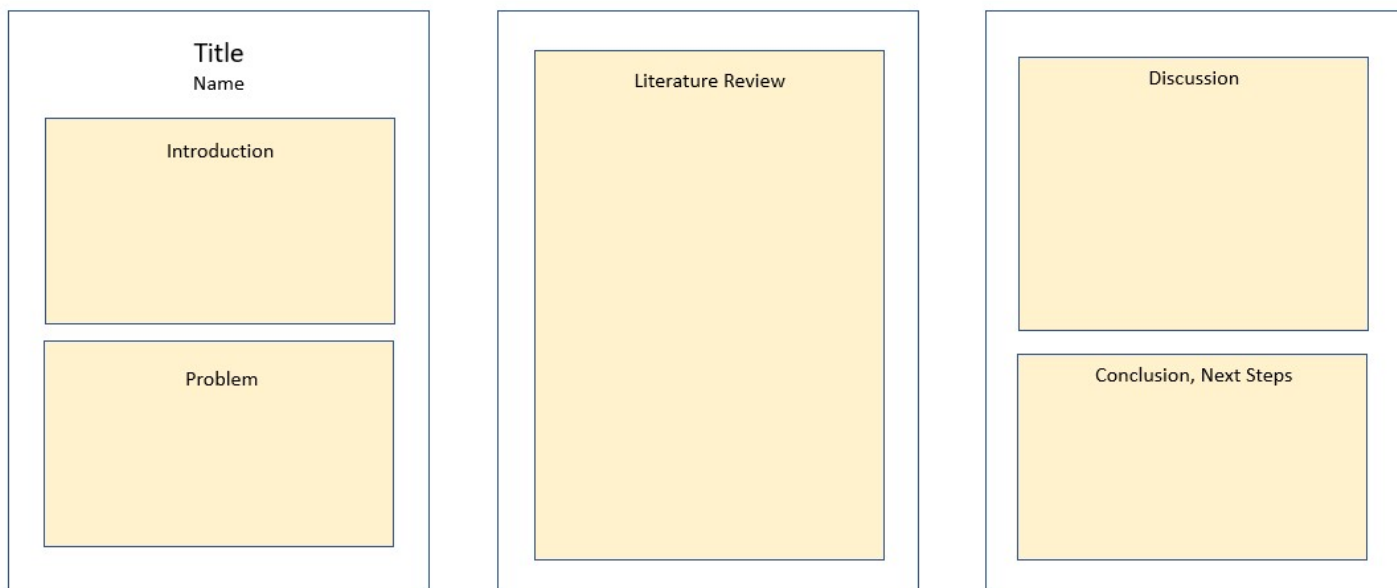
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Social Problems term paper instructions

Purpose: Use theory to explain your observation/experience of a social problem.

You may fail if you don't follow instructions!

1. Intro - Choose the topic and book or journal article.
 2. Literature Review - Summarize (without connecting to your own issue yet) the non-fiction popular book or 2 journal articles.
 3. Describe a related social problem that you observe in your life.
 4. Discussion - use the book's theory to analyze the problem.
 5. Conclusion
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1. Introduction – Briefly describe the social problem (issue, phenomenon, current norm...) without analyzing its causes. Explain why it is a problem. Announce the book you will be using to explain the problem. A peer-reviewed journal article from the Hill library's database, Academic Search Complete.
 2. Describe the social problem that you observe or experience in your own life. Provide specific examples. This problem must be caused by the social structure (racism, sexism/LGBT, deviance, substance abuse, etc.). You do not necessarily have to experience it personally, but to see it or question how you navigate around this issue. Do not use theory to explain it yet.
 3. Literature review – Summarize the book. Focus on how the author explains the problem and offers insight and understanding. Do not focus on the author personally, book reviews, or irrelevant issues. Learn the author's theory of the problem well enough to imagine a discussion with them.
 4. Discussion – Now, use the authors' theory to explain the problem. Not only the cause, but what it does and could do. Offer other uses for the theory.
 5. Conclude your paper with a summary of the book, how it explains the problem, and what it doesn't. What more could be done?



3-pages. About 1,500 words. APA style, double-spaced, 12pt, 1" margins. PDF, DOC, RTF attachment. Add a separate References page, if more than 1 source.

Focus your paper on microanalysis – at the individual level, rather than macro or systemic issues. This approach will help with clinical, professional, social work, and counseling careers. Choose a book listed below or 2 journal articles.

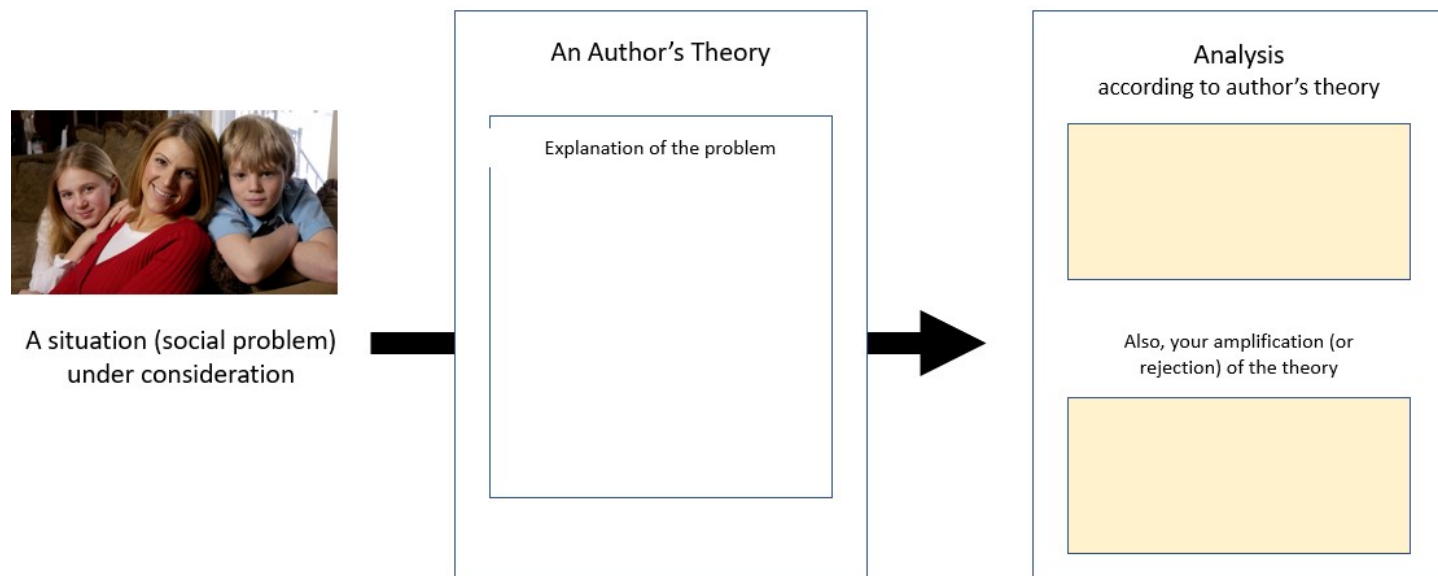
If you choose a book, acquire it as soon as possible so you can study it. A popular book is encouraged for non-social science majors to get in the habit of reading books related to social issues. https://www.goodreads.com/genres/most_read/social-issues

If you choose two peer-reviewed journal articles, you can search for them in *Academic Search Complete*. You can use multiple credible sources – just always identify who said what. Non-scientific sources (or material that “used” a credible source) are not credible. They carry no weight in supporting a theory. Do not use news, YouTube, social media sites, marketing, ideological, or unscientific websites. This is not about YOUR theory!

Paper will be checked in different ways for plagiarism. Do not copy and paste, or even paraphrase from another source without citation. Work submitted is assumed to be your own original ideas. Assignments found to be plagiarized will be given zero points. Follow APA style to identify your source.

Ensure your paper has all of the technical requirements eg, name, date, headings, 1" margins, double-spacing, 12pt font, etc.

Remember to continually mention and cite WHO SAID WHAT! Otherwise your readers won't know if a sentence is your opinion, rational conclusion, hearsay, or from which author.



APA Style Citations

In-line Citation for an Article: (Rich, Wilson, & Robertson, 2016) [2nd time: Rich, et al, 2016]

References page listing for an Article:

Rich, S.L., Wilson, J.K., & Robertson, A.A. (2016). The Impact of Abuse Trauma on Alcohol and Drug Use: A Study of High-Risk Incarcerated Girls. *Journal of Child & Adolescent Substance Abuse*, 25(3), 194–205.

Inline Citation for a Book: (Matthews, 2015)

References page listing for a Book:

Matthew, D. B. (2015). *Just medicine: A cure for racial inequality in American health care*. New York University Press.