

Reflection Essay
By Dr. Marian Spaid-Ross

Why did I select this paper to demonstrate my learning in this class?

I selected my literature review paper, *Older Women's Homelessness and Housing* to demonstrate my learning in this class because it provided me an opportunity to not only become more knowledgeable about the subject area but also, review the process and the importance of analyzing empirical articles in supporting the focus of your research topic. In this paper, I was able to analyze and discuss intelligently about older women who are homeless and seeking permanent housing. I also became more aware of the societal and political issues and their impact on the various stakeholders (older homeless women) with access to resources and housing options.

Which specific program learning outcomes does this paper demonstrate?

My paper, *Older Women's Homelessness and Housing*, included these specific program learning outcomes:

- Demonstrate the ability to evaluate or conduct appropriate research.
- Develop advocacy skills to participate in policy formation, implementation, and analysis on the local, state, and federal level for aging related issues.
- Acquire advanced education and professional training in gerontology to assume leadership positions in governmental, for-profit, and non-profit programs and services at the federal, state, and/or local level.

How does this paper demonstrate my learning of the expected program learning outcomes?

The writing process for developing this literature review paper provided me an opportunity to recognize and understand more clearly the importance of reforming and applying

the use of specific remediation models and programs at various institutions. The learning and developmental process in writing this paper required that I locate empirical research articles and examine their various findings that included older women who were homeless, who were dealing with physical and mental health issues, financial, legal, and abuse and who are currently seeking permanent housing.

How does this paper demonstrate my learning of my personal and professional goals for the program?

After writing the literature review paper, *Older Women's Homelessness and Housing*, I have begun to understand the importance of research and continuing the advocacy to develop resources and policies that support older adult women who are homeless and seeking permanent housing options. My participation in the dialogue and decision-making process regarding reducing and eliminating older women homelessness is necessary to advocate the need for policy and affordable housing reform.

I believe that my participation and engagement in this course has continued to transform not only my role as a future Gerontologist but also, has transformed my ideas and goals. By utilizing this type of approach relationships and dialogues continue to develop between stakeholders, facilitators of programs, and housing facilities working together as a community which then creates a shared awareness of the older adult women homelessness issue and their support for a pathway out of homelessness to housing permanency and a sense of belonging.