Social Work Writing:

Purposes for Writing, Common Assignments, and Skills Developed
PURPOSES FOR WRITING

Social work students write for a variety of reasons. The following are nine purposes for which social work students write.

To understand and care for the self
To communicate the self to others
To understand the perspective of others
To describe
To analyze
To be accountable
To reach and persuade diverse audiences
To participate in building knowledge
To represent the profession to society
ASSIGNMENTS TO PRACTICE SOCIAL WORK WRITING

The following writing assignments enable social work students to develop valuable social work and writing skills.

1. Reflective writing
2. Personal journals
3. Free writing
4. Professional journals
5. Term papers
6. Agency documentation: treatment plans, progress notes, treatment summaries
7. Proposals
8. Writing in the voice of the client
9. Descriptions of clients, agency, community, and social work transactions
10. Psychological assessments
11. Process recordings
12. Testimonies
13. Research
SKILLS DEVELOPED IN SOCIAL WORK WRITING

As social work students write, they develop many important social work and writing skills.
empathy

writing from a consistent point of view

critical thinking skills

using a logical progression of ideas

ability to communicate social work ethics, worldview, and practice models

organization

using the "social work voice"
Sources