

**Wurzweiler School of Social Work
Yeshiva University
2018/2019**

CAPSTONE THESIS OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION:

Select a client case (individual, family, couple, group or community) from your field work experience that proved to be challenging for you.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

Search the literature to define and explore the dimensions and importance of the substantive issue or practice area related to the case example. The literature review section is more than just summarizing the views of researchers and commentators. This section of the thesis requires you to critically examine previous research in order to present your ideas within a conceptual and theoretical context. The point here is not to explain what others have found or have stated about the topic, but to provide an evaluation of the research that exists, and possible gaps in the literature. How does the article/work contribute to an understanding of the topic? To what extent is there duplication in the literature? Is there a relationship between a particular work and other writing(s) on the subject? It is important to demonstrate that you have an awareness of the different opinions, theories, and approaches that others have written about related to your topic.

WEB-BASED RESOURCES:

Dr. Helen Mongan-Rallis of the University of Minnesota Duluth provides a detailed guide, for writing the literature review section of the thesis.

<http://www.duluth.umn.edu/~hrallis/guides/researching/litreview.html>

Another useful website, with information compiled by Dr. John Glover of Virginia Commonwealth is the following:

<http://guides.library.vcu.edu/lit-review>

If you are more of a visual learner, there are a number of YouTube videos that might be helpful. The below links provide a basic step-by-step guide to writing a literature review in 3 parts.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICIUgxoJf_g

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PzWTM4FApNg>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ES3TJrzaYKE>

INTEGRATION OF COURSEWORK AND FIELDWORK RELEVANT TO THEME:

Use specific classes that you have taken as an MSW student, (e.g. research, policy, practice, etc.), explore how your social work knowledge base, both practical and theoretical, has informed your practice in general, and specifically as it relates to the case.

DEVELOPMENT OF PROFESSIONAL SELF:

Apart from your chosen theme, think back over the time you have been in the program and retrospectively describe your growth from *non-student to student, from first year student to second year student and from a student to a beginning practitioner*. How has your perception of helping others changed since you began the program? How has your view as a helper changed since the beginning of the program? What is the difference in the definition of your professional self now and the definition at the beginning of the program? Please use examples from your first and second year courses and field work to answer these questions.

CONCLUSION:

Summarize and provide implications of how you think your student experience at Wurzweiler will inform your future social work practice.