8.4 Research Paper

The purpose of this paper is for you to describe your internship experience, and discuss how your experience relates to larger issues and challenges facing the health care system. This paper should demonstrate an application of knowledge gained from your coursework to your internship activities.

This is a formal paper. It must be double-spaced and must cover all of the items in the outline below:

I. Overview of the Agency/Organization
   a. Brief history and mission.
   b. Overview of services provided.
   c. Organizational chart and identification of your internship placement within the organization.
   d. Company policies that affected your placement.
   e. Required knowledge, skills, and attributes to be successful working in this setting.

II. The Healthcare Environment
   a. What are the major issues facing the current health care environment?
   b. Discuss how these issues are impacting the organization/agency where you completed your internship.
   c. How is the organization/agency responding to these challenges?
   d. In what way was the focus of your internship related to these issues?

III. Description of internship activities including procedures and responsibilities
   a. Describe the major activities/projects that you completed or contributed to during your internship.
   b. What types of computer applications were utilized?
   c. Describe data compiled, materials reviewed, and work produced (where relevant).
   d. How did your activities/projects contribute to the organization’s mission?
   e. How did the organization benefit from your projects/output?

IV. Activities log summary
   Include a written, detailed account of daily/ongoing activities including number of hours, and meetings attended.
   a. Identify points of interest and/or difficulties experienced.
   b. Describe inconsistencies/consistencies between what you learned in specific classes and what you experienced during your internship.
V. Internship Assessment
   a. Employment and orientation process to the internship site – was this adequate? What was good/missing?
   b. Self-evaluation of internship.
   c. Co-worker relationships.
   d. Supervisor relationships.
   e. Benefits gained through Internship experience.

VI. Assessment of Preparation for Internship
   a. Which classes best prepared you for your internship and why?
   b. Identify coursework or activities you wish you had prior to your Internship.
   c. Suggested changes that would have strengthened your Internship experience.