

Argument Based Outline¹

I. Introduction

A. Topic and Issue:

There is no doubt that the population is aging rapidly. Ageism, which includes infantilization, is a discriminatory practice in which seniors are revoked their adult status. With increasing amounts of seniors in our communities it is becoming more and more important that we find practical solutions to address seniors' social, physical and mental needs.²

- “Given that the population is rapidly aging, there will be a 140% increase of seniors by year 2030” (Sokolovsky 2009:13)
- In our own service learning experience we found that the environment surrounding senior volunteerism steered us to choose simple activities, such as decorating cookies, watching movies, making cards and playing games.³

B. Research Question:

- Why did our service-learning group, in collaboration with the SASH coordinator and resident director chose “childlike” activities for our volunteer events with seniors?

C. Thesis Statement:

- Senior residents favor simple activities because they are inclusive, they initiate conversation and are cost effective.

D. Organization of Paper⁴

- We will begin by giving a brief background of the site where most of our service learning occurred, the Ruggles House. We will also include why volunteering, especially with seniors, is so important. There will be a detailed description of our service learning process followed by our findings, and the discussion of these findings. The paper will conclude with our reflections, implication and recommendations for the future.

II. Background and Significance

A. Background⁵

- Families were historically the main caregivers but as economic demands increased families moved farther apart causing them to outsource care for seniors

¹ Place directly after cover page if Professor wants it included as part of the final paper/project

² What is your topic and why it is relevant/important to the field

³ Include brief examples of evidence

⁴ General summary of what your paper will look like

⁵ Define relevant terms and include historical, social and demographic context

- Informal care-work that families provide when caring for their seniors
- Formal care-work provided by trained health and service staff
- Infantilization-where seniors are seen as juvenile, being culturally denied from their adult status
- Ruggles house-15 residents all have their own room
- SASH coordinator and resident director-contacts for service learning

B. Significance⁶

- Affording senior care is hard for the majority of families-need to rethink policies
- Events must be appropriate for all of the members (residents have wide range of abilities)- rely on simpler activities to do in a mutually shared space.
- It is important to ban ageism and infantilization in order to be respectful- why caregivers and volunteers need to be culturally competent

III. Sources and Data⁷

A. Class related sources

- Helped to establish the background and significance of our work

B. Outside Scholarly sources

- Supported our discussion of simple activities being inclusive, cost effective and initiating conversation.

IV. Direct Service Process⁸

A. Instructors insurance and tutorial completion⁹

B. Community partner: Cathedral Square and SASH

- Volunteer site-Ruggles House
- Type of client: residents of the Ruggles House

C. Types of Resources

- CUPs fund-\$300 for the whole class

D. Direct Service activities¹⁰

⁶ What makes your work important/relevant to the related anthropological field (i.e. medical anthropology)

⁷ List the types of sources you will use and how they will contribute to your paper

⁸ In this section of the paper you will describe your service learning process and what steps you took along the way to complete it

⁹ Instructors insurance-what your professor completes to make sure that the research is exempt from review/it's okay to complete. Tutorial completion- to work with participants in the field you must complete the IRB Human Subjects tutorial

- 2/28: Movie Day (7)
- 2/14: Crafts for Valentine's Day (6)
- 3/14: Board Game Day/baking bread (4)
- 3/28: Easter Egg dying day (2)
- 4/18: Movie (0)
- 4/25: BBQ (7)

E. Division of Labor¹¹

F. Client Ratings and Confidentiality¹²

V. Findings¹³

A. Inclusive

- Child like activities are inclusive in nature because everyone is able to participate in them (even those seniors who may have mental and physical disabilities).

B. Initiates Conversation

- Conversations were facilitated through activities that did not require a lot of concentration and could be done at the same time that people talked to each other.

C. Cost effective

- Since we did not have much money we were more apt to do child like activities because they are cheaper.

VI. Discussion¹⁴

A. Inclusive

- Inclusive activities help relieve seniors' social isolation by helping them form relationships with others which increases their well-being.
- Safe space to form important mutual/reciprocal relationships-society focused on individualism and doing everything yourself

¹⁰ Number of participants at each event, when they were completed

¹¹ In this section of the paper you will discuss contributions made by different group members and how your group decided to split the different responsibilities throughout the semester.

¹² Engaging with subjects in the field requires obtaining their consent and possibly feedback. Make sure to state you completed your work ethically (got signed permission forms from subjects to use their names, pictures, interviews etc.). Also include their comments, what they thought of your events, ideas, presence etc.

¹³ The findings consist of the three main points/arguments of our thesis statement. Each finding is describing a different phenomenon that we observed or discovered through our service learning.

¹⁴ How does what you observed/your findings relate and connect to your sources? In the discussion you work to explain your findings.

- Young@heart comparison

B. Initiates Conversation

- Simple activities facilitate conversation, which leads to reminiscing. Reminiscing can increase a seniors well being.
- Nostalgia helps seniors to connect with others
- Activates the brain

C. Cost effective

- Mostly the research agrees that service learning needs more money invested in it
- We would do other activities that are also inclusive but they are expensive

VII. Reflection

A. Assumptions were mainstream¹⁵

- We thought it would be depressing/sad to work with seniors

B. What we found¹⁶

- Volunteering with the seniors could be fun
- We both gained something and gave something phenomenon

C. Volunteering is really about the community¹⁷

VIII. Implications and Recommendations

A. Implications¹⁸

- Do our findings agree with previous research?
- Did our work bring up new questions and themes in this area?

B. Recommendations¹⁹

- How do we make the situation better?
 - Compare and contrast to research.
- Policy suggestions?

IX. Conclusion

A. Restating of thesis

B. Further questions

C. Final word of thanks

¹⁵ Look back at initial assumptions and think about if and how they changed.

¹⁶ Did you find anything surprising?

¹⁷ What did you take away from the work

¹⁸ Are your findings congruent or incongruent with previous research? Did you observe something that hasn't been discussed before?

¹⁹ Always be sure to include recommendations for possible future research, policies etc.