

The following are individual student ALE Reflection papers.

Student 1.	563961
Student 2.	693157
Student 3.	425242
Student 4.	472276
Student 5.	488097
Student 6.	684194
Student 7.	675239
Student 8.	586122
Student 9.	480962
Student 10.	560701
Student 11.	565119
Student 12.	572492
Student 13.	491749

Student 1.

Social Welfare Policy has opened my eyes to real world experiences and expectations I would expect in the future as a Social Worker. The definition of Social policy is a line of argument rationalizing the course of action of a government concerning social issues. In our policy class we were involved in group debates. Debates involving social issues that are very controversial in today's world. Issues such as abortion and open carry. I learned in order to obtain a positive outlook in a debate the student must be well informed on the areas of issues at hand. The student must be well informed of both the affirmative and negative points of each issue. The more the student is aware of the more the student can counter or rebuttal when it is due time. I have also witnessed how a well-informed and structured argument can sway the opponent into their belief.

Another example of a real world experience was the day I participated in the Advocacy Day at the capitol in Austin Texas. I met with Payton Spreen Legislative and Committee Aide to Texas House of Representative Charlie Geren. Charlie Geren is a Republican member serving District 99 and native to Fort Worth Texas. It was there I learned just exactly how important Policy is in the Social Work field. Change is what I would like to give to the world and Policy is where it starts.

Student 2.

Throughout the Spring 2016 semester at Tarleton State University I have applied a variety of learned material from previous courses to my policy class this semester. Like Service Learning, group work was a major part of this class. Group members had to work together in order to add more to our paper from Service Learning to Policy. My group and I were able to develop a better understanding of the policy given to us by our community partner. Social Work Advocacy Day in Austin was an exciting day that gave me a better understanding of legislative advocacy. Speaking with a State Representative was an eye opening experience. The State Representative was very informative and gave my group members and me additional feedback to improve our understanding about the policy we were analyzing. Communication with the community partner was very important as well. It was important for the team leader to continue the working relationship between the community partner from the Fall semester into the Spring semester. My community partner was very helpful and provided my group with a policy that we could analyze. She was able to help guide me through the political lingo in the policy. This semester was very eventful and I am grateful that I had the opportunity to experience this process with my fellow classmates and teaching staff.

Student 3.

The Social Welfare Policy course, SOCW 3306, I believe gave my group and myself real world experiences that we could reflect back on in our specific discipline. In this course I was able to use the skills and knowledge from prior courses such as: English Composition I and II, Speech, History, Government, Psychology, Sociology, and Intro to Social Work as well as Tarleton's upper level degree courses.

This course required me to reflect a lot on my prior English I and II competency skills. I used the skills of a writing intensive course to help reflect on grammar and influential reading. These skills helped when expanding the group's literature review and article expansions. Policy also required me to reflect on the skills I learned in my Speech course; this was implemented by effectively advocating for policy changes when we took a trip to Austin for Social Work Advocacy Day at the Capitol. In the Social Welfare Policy course we also participated in a lot of group collaborations. This is another aspect that helped develop effective communication. The policy course also allowed me to reflect and bring back the prior knowledge learned in History and Government courses in order to develop hypotheses and alternate routes to effect various populations. This became important when going to Austin and speaking with legislation about various bills.

In Policy my group and I were required to conduct a rally. This required sharing information through social media, flyers, and our meetings in Austin to promote the population issue policy. While planning this rally my colleagues and I were required to locate various resources to use in the rally.

In the Social Work discipline our Code of Ethics promote knowledge in diversity, advocacy for human rights and social justice, service, and the importance recognizing and approaching an individual with a holistic perspective. In doing so I have learned to consider how an approach will be used in the "micro", "mezzo", and/or "macro" level implementation. I learned this information through active learning as well as discussions on readings.

While all this knowledge and experience has benefited me in their own specific way, they have also assisted me in growing academically, professionally and personally. Through this course I have also gained knowledge on how to work within a group; including working through various differences.

Student 4.

Students will analyze how this applied learning experience enabled them to apply what they learned from their courses, both in major and core curriculum areas, and from their extracurricular experiences to the real world.

In analyzing policy class experiences, the ability to apply political science policy methods and combining that knowledge with Social Work calls for advocacy, offered me the ability to put my knowledge into action especially through implementation of a rally in support of extending benefits to the senior population. Examining policy limitations at the local, state, and federal levels afforded me the ability to build a strong foundation to initiate change at the appropriate governmental level. Using the information gained while attending this class I am more confident in my ability to initiate policy changes within community agencies, presenting problem concerns to area legislators, and articulating necessary policy changes with state officials. Policy requirements regarding petitions and rallies enabled me to incorporate Social Work values and ethics into the examination of real-time policies affecting the senior population while incorporating past knowledge of grass roots petitioning of voters that met with successful changes in city policies. As a student of Social Work it is critical to be globally aware of how a policy affects populations both within and outside our countries borders because some policies like border control affect many countries immigration practices and it is important that I have the knowledge necessary to assist populations that are effected.

Students will evaluate how the applied learning experience expanded their views of academic, political, social, cultural, and/or economic environments and prepared them to contribute more meaningfully to a global society.

Academically this experience did not meet personal expectations of expanding my experiential knowledge of rallies and petitions but did briefly touch on the need for policy analysis within the Social Work field to ensure implemented polices are the most efficient manner in addressing population needs. As an older, politically active, non-traditional student I felt the experience lacked real world challenges of implementing local community policy changes through attendance at council meetings, facilitating agency board member relationships, or with state and national Social Work practitioners but instead focused on Social Worker solidarity with a trip to Austin. The social aspects of this experience were the most interesting in how each relationship made by team members contributed to the understanding of how individuals react to people initiating changes in their community especially their levels of credibility in populations served. This experience provided many opportunities to enrich my cultural competency especially when dealing with community partner agencies and their clients. All of these facets of policy combined are critical learning experiences for new social work students which aid awareness levels so that contributions made will be incorporated globally similar to work with agencies making changes in third world countries.

Student 5.

Students will analyze how this real-world experience enabled them to apply what they have learned from their courses, both in the major and core curriculum areas, and from their extracurricular experiences.

We were able to learn through real-world experiences while visiting Austin, Texas to speak with Texas State Legislators. While applying skills we had learned in previous classes such as Service Learning and Methods of Skills Interviewing I was able to apply the techniques learned during a meeting with Payton Spreen, the assistant to Texas State Legislator Charlie Geren, at the Texas State Capitol. Because I had taken those courses I was able to conduct a thorough and intelligent interview outside of the classroom setting. While in Service Learning we were able to get a feel for the environment with which we would be working with throughout Policy. Seeing the conditions first hand allowed for us to create a policy to advocate for while on our visit. If all learning was done through classroom only courses after graduation students would believe that challenges never arise and everything will always be smooth sailing. As Social Workers we definitely need to realize that is not the case and rarely, if ever, will be. By learning through real life experiences we are able to face the challenges first hand and get a better grasp of what working in a social work setting will be like.

Students will evaluate how the applied learning experience expanded their views of academic, political, social, cultural and/or economic environments and prepared them to contribute more meaningfully to a global society.

Through the applied learning experience I was able to expand my views in academics because I realized that the things I had from real life experience could be applied to my academics and my academics could be applied to my real life experiences. Politically my views expanded because I was able to learn what all it entails to get a policy passed through legislation to become a Bill. You have to research what policies may already be in place so that you know the history and likelihood of getting a legislator to listen to you advocate for your policy and if any other bills have been tried and succeeded or failed at being passed through. Socially when working with other students inside and out of the classrooms you are constantly networking. Building relationships with community partners and other groups helped me to establish a rapport within the community as we advocate on behalf of Tarleton State University. We were able to use these relationships to enlist the help of a local doctor to speak at our Rally for Policy. Our policy was focused on building better neighborhoods in lower socio-economic neighborhoods so seeing these economic environments let us see firsthand the things the people living in these areas experience. At the beginning of this journey I was intimidated and quite frankly a little scared to be in those areas but once out there I saw that the community is strong and came together when it came to their children. The law enforcement came out to ensure safety for everyone involved. I ended with more of an open mind and gratitude for being involved in such a great learning experience.

Student 6.

The aim of our Social Work Policy class was to teach future social workers the frameworks that inform, limit, and/or advance social work practice and the goals of social justice. Social problems in the United States must not remain unchallenged and unchanged. Having been given the opportunity to attend Austin for the National Social Work Advocacy Day was an amazing experience that ignited my passion for policy. Being able to shake hands with a Texas State Representative and get his take on the current social issues his staff and he are working on was a very eye-opening experience.

During my visit in Austin, the knowledge and preparation of my Methods and Skills of Interviewing class came in handy when sitting down to interview with the Chief Operator of the Representative. As a future social worker, social justice is not easy to obtain but understanding how our legislative system works and keeping up with policies are a big part of being an effective social worker; especially when advocating for the needs of a client or changes within a community we must know what resources are available to them based on the policies in place.

Student 7.

Policy class proved to be one of the most interesting classes of the semester. It provided my group real life experiences which helped us gain knowledge and acquire it through our face to face instruction and hands on learning. Having the honor to attend Advocacy Day in Austin was the highlight of this class. Preparing and participating in the rally allowed me to have a better understanding on the issue that we were addressing. S.B. 501 was the state Bill we analyzed and advocated for in Austin. After research we found the need for extra funds to hire and train more equality specialist for The Center of Elimination for Disproportionalities and Disparities. On our trip to Austin we spoke to a legislator and obtained useful information in a professional manner. Learning to carry ourselves in a professional manner is something we have learned since the beginning of social work classes. Perhaps the most informative class was Methods of Interviewing and Service Learning, where we learned the importance of carrying ourselves in a professional manner. Professionalism plays a big part in being an effective social worker. Communication skills attained from lower level Speech class taught me to communicate effectively in the meeting with the legislator. All core curriculum classes required professionalism in attire when making presentations and prepared us for our professional appearance at Austin Advocacy Day. Being part of the Student Social Work Association I had the privilege to coordinate school logoed shirts for my fellow classmates. I felt pride as we represented our school well. I was honored to be part this organization and look forward to next semester serving the social work student body. Policy as well as Practice I enhanced advocating skills and resource brokerage used for and during our rally. Policy assignments included the frequent use of social media. The perfection of these skill skills were used to promote our rally via Twitter, Facebook, and Google Community. On our extra time we passed out flyers and had petitions signed supporting our cause for advocating. Communication with our community partner and with the community is how we organized our rally.

Policy class and the trip to Austin changed my views on political issues. I have always been the one to say I don't involve myself in politics but this is very necessary. Politics make policies and policies affect all of us. Whether it be here in the United States or anywhere around the world policy determines changes in within the systems. If we do not address the issues and advocate on them we cannot expect change. My academic views have broadened thanks to this course. I know how to research a policy and how to address it. I learned how long the process takes for a policy to be reviewed or if it is even looked at. My social views were expanded because I became open minded to a class and issue that I believed had nothing to do with me or my surroundings. Policy has made the social worker in me more alive because I feel that through policy we can make changes. This Applied Learning Experience (ALE) has allowed me to open my skills in a Macro level and see the bigger picture. Policy is the core of social justice and learning to advocate for people on a global level.

Student 8.

Having had the privilege of completing SOCW 3306-030 Social Welfare Policy this past semester, much can be said over what was learned and applied. First, the class went over everyday policies and how they affect different individuals, groups, communities, and countries. I always knew that there were policies in place but never really knew how they got there or what they mean. Through this class, I learned about bias and prejudices in policies. I learned that each policy can be broken down to the micro, mezzo, and macro level. I have learned that most policies go in effect to affect the macro level, but first became an issue at the micro level. There are ways that issues come up; first hand, second hand, or third hand. I also learned that through social media, a micro level issue can be brought to a macro level with a post, tweet, or like. It also can be used in a negative way. Having gone to the capitol and spoke with a representative, I learned how not only the issue is important but also how the timing of an issue is equally as important. If session is not for 2 years, it would be nearly impossible to keep an issue on people's minds until session begins. Timing could be the key factor in policy change. Also, having put together a rally I learned the truths about awareness. During the preparation, it was difficult to get it organized because people have different schedules. Also, getting permission and support can be just as challenging. Having more individuals ignore bring awareness was eye opening. I realize most of the time if an issue does not directly affect a person, they are less likely to take the time to learn about it. Over all I feel like this class was an eye opening experience. I got to deal with much negatives about policy change and many positives also. I have obtained a solid foundation about policy and I know it will come in handy as I pursue my professional career in research.

Student 9.

My Learning Experiences in Social work classes had start in my First Social Work in 2013 when I first took Services learning. It was the beginning of my face to face contact with client s when I was assigned to do some 60 hours at the agencies. I have learn a lot in class and in the field with agency, to read the guide and on the book in the class and make practical was very helpful to me. My experience of Social at school are my guide and knowledge when I took Introduction of the Socialwork 2361 at TCC had open my mind the important of being a Social worker. That class had introduced me to the social work role and develop. My understanding, and my knowledge had increase after that class. I am still thinking about key ideas which I had learned from there like, values, the social work process, and the skills needed for social worker to practice.

My second reflection is from Social Welfare America SOCW 2362, this class had teach me so many important in the Social work history, like Jane Adam of Hull House in Chicago, the first people help some many people through Social Work. As Addams and Starr familiarized themselves with the living conditions of the people around them, they recognized the need for real social reform. Well-acquainted with many children who worked more than 60 hours a week, Addams and her volunteers worked to change child labor laws. They provided lawmakers within formation they had compiled and spoke at community gatherings.

My reflection to classroom experience this spring is important, and it make developed and become competent of my learning. My classroom experience at SOCW 3316, was help in my next class because it was a general practice I and it introduce to many different way of practicing in the field and how to make assessment when you are with clients in the agency and how to conduct myself when meeting client at the first time. This class introduced me to many training in the class for example I had completed The Pride-Training the Trainer Workshop which was so helpful and I had got the certificate of attending that training. Practice I gave me expertise which may pave the way in my second practice II. General Social practice I is important because it taught me how to engage with client by building trust with clients and how to gathering information during assessment. I had learned how to plan, formulate, and prioritize the problems, to know which one will be done first.

Social Welfare Policy SOCW 3306 is one of the most important class I had this Spring and I had learned so many things, making petition,, Making Rally, Advocate to the Law maker and Debate the issues which are important to Social Worker. I had learn how to represent those who cannot talk for themselves. It was very good to talk on behave of other to get help from those are on the top or lawmakers. Social Welfare policy very important for me because it show of different policies can affect clients, the one I was advocate for Free Bus passes to homelessness in Tarrant county, it had been helpful to homeless who used free bus pass before, but after the cut the free bus pass, it affect those do not have a mean to go around fort worth. Policy analysis in this class is very good because it make me compare my finding to the previous finding, it is long and need more energy to work on policy analysis. Before I attend Social Welfare policy, I was afraid, but after my professor work with me and guide me, it become easy and I had learn a lot. This

class plus many social classes I had took before had contribute to my experience and I hope to continue develop my knowledge and skill of Social Work and become a good Social Worker when I graduate from this Social Work.

My own experiences before become a Social worker student to help people who are in need, but I do not know it was call. After I came to the I United States I was help by case worker who train and help me learn many things and became self-reliance. Social Worker major is one of my favor subject because you change the life of other. My Social work experiences in class at Tarleton State university is very helpful, it show me the ways, and guide how to deal with many problem when facing challenge in the field. My experiences in the classroom will be the foundation for me in the field. I had gain a lot in this classes I had done during my previous year and this spring 2016.

Student 10.

The class I took this semester was Policy. This subject is very important in every aspect of our lives and within the Social Work field also. A way policy affects social work is that policies shape agencies that help our clients. Policy procedures tell us what can be done and what can't be done in aiding our clients. This is not only for social work field but in general with every agency type in our lives. This can be schools, health care, our government, laws, etc. I was able to learn not only how policy affects our daily lives but also what steps to take to be able to initiate change. I learned how to advocate for our clients' needs and what steps to take to initiate those changes. I was able to do a paper to advocate for an issue. In this paper I not only advocated for the issue but had statistics and reliable sources that aided in the importance of my issue. I think this course is a necessary course for any type of agency. In each agency there will always be policies, rules, or regulations to make sure that everyone has the opportunities to get the help they need. However the client's needs is something that is constantly evolving. A lot of policies can be out of date with the client's needs. With the knowledge I learned I can be fluid to address those needs no matter how many times it changes when I become a social worker. Policy is the very foundation of agencies to make sure they are successful.

Student 11.

Although there seemed to be a degree of conflict during the duration of this course, the end result was a culmination of knowledge and experiences on both a macro and mezzo level. After attending Advocacy Day in Austin Texas, pieces of the puzzle began to come together. Our team did not have a policy ready at the time of the Austin trip instead we spent time with Payton Spreen, assistant to State Representative Charlie Geren, and learned about fund appropriation and proper timing for advocacy of current bills and future recommendations. Application of past course knowledge allowed for confidence and professionalism when interacting with legislative staff and officials. An aspect of several classes I have found extremely useful in communication is active role-play experienced in Practice I as well as Methods of Skills and Interviewing. This hands-on experience opened an appetite for knowledge on legislative procedure and action steps to potentially enhance the influence of Bill 19 (Physical Activity in Elementary Schools) which directly correlates with the agency which we were assigned last semester in Service Learning. Blue Zones of Ft Worth is a part of the city's initiative to bring awareness to healthier lifestyles. We were introduced and work diligently alongside with this community partner learning to facilitate a walking school bus initiative at CS Moss Elementary. Again, skills learned in prior courses such as Service Learning provided skills including professional communication, participation and dress.

As the semester progressed knowledge of the purpose of the policy analysis was discussed both in text and lecture. Learning to dissect an existing policy allowed understanding of both the stated and unstated objectives and allowed a clearer understanding of the bill. The most interesting part was learning how analyzing a bill includes estimating the consequence of loss for specific targeted populations.

Moving forward in Tarleton State University Social Work Program I am excited to plug past and future course knowledge with field placement. Attending the Community Engagement Research conference, sponsored by Dr. Jones and the senior students, provided an excellent view into the peak of the program at end. I have enjoyed the policy class and appreciate all the hard work and commitment provided by the teaching staff.

Student 12.

Students will analyze how this applied learning experience enabled them to apply what they learned from their courses, both in major and core curriculum areas, and from their extracurricular experience to the real world.

These learning experiences provided many opportunities for growth as an individual and education wise. Personally, it brought me out of my comfort level, as there are times I can be intimidated by others titles, such as legislators, representatives, and founders. Going through this experience, I have practiced how to keep a professional manner, how to ask questions and ask again if I am not understanding what is being said. Along with this, preparing for things such as advocacy day and rally day have brought forth better organization with following timelines and reaching out to resources in the community. I have also learned how to be a better advocate and understand that there is a professional manner in resolving conflict, especially when others will not agree with the topic. Before, it was always nerve-wrecking to think that something could happen if someone did not agree with what was being advocated for. My knowledge for learning how to research also was an experience because it brought forth awareness of what I was advocating for. I have gained knowledge, awareness and confidence going through these experiences and courses.

Students will evaluate how the applied learning experience expand their views of academic, political, social, cultural, and/or economic environments and prepared them to contribute more meaningfully to a global society.

With the ALE's, my perspective on many things has changed. Academically, it has strengthened me to become educated on topics I never really paid attention to, and learn to speak of such topics including: pro-life, open carry and LGBTQ. I learned how these topics are important through society, and how any political views can either hinder or promote such things.

Culturally, I have learned that many times, it does not matter who you are-race, ethnicity, or who you identify with- many situations arise in any culture. As a social work student, ALE's are preparing me to contribute meaningfully to society, and to be the voice of silence. These experiences teach me to be an advocate, academically and professionally. It is rewarding to know that while I continue to learn and expand my knowledge, I am also teaching someone else that could potentially become the voice for someone else from my experiences.

Student 13.

The Applied Learning Experience (ALE) allowed me to see things in depth when it comes to policies. The trip to Austin, meeting with representatives, and becoming enlightened on how several of the systems work in our government offices have changed my opinion in many areas. In simpler terms policy to me is what keeps things moving in the direction it is supposed to be moving whether right or wrong. I have learned the pressure it takes to get bills passed and how at times many bills do not get passed because of personal issues between parties and not because of the bill itself. Politics are at times misguided by emotions from either sides.

There was challenges in this class this semester with the changes that took place. My group in particular had to reevaluate our literature review question because it was too general. This caused problems within our group along with the group leader having to be changed due to new employment. A lot of changes took place this semester that taught me to become comfortable being uncomfortable. Our group has grown more mature this semester than last semester because of the constant changes. Working with a group made the class more bearable to say the least. All the assignments to juggle along with personal life tended to pile up at times but the group became a support system when needed. I learned how to depend on people more and extend my trust barrier. I learned even more how to be dependable and to work under the pressure of another person's leadership, because I was the group leader last semester and this semester I was not.

The analysis paper procedure and process helped me to understand how to read a bill. At first glance it looks complicated, with all the numbers and letters but once I studied it for a few minutes it became clear. If I had never took my time to dissect it I would have never known how simple it really was. Everything became clear once I had to restate what I was reading in my own words. The debates we had to prepare for helped me to see a different side of an argument because in both debates I argued against what I was initially for. This experience taught me to look at both sides of the argument before picking a side. My views on many issues have changed because of the experience I have had this semester and I hope they continue to change for the better so that I will be more open minded than before I started on this journey.