



A Performance Task: A Real-World Challenge

Reducing health disparities in your community

GOAL

The goal is to propose one possible solution, idea or program (locally or statewide) that could help to make a positive impact on the health disparity you've identified through research.

ROLE

You are a small team of social workers working for different nonprofit organizations in your community.

AUDIENCE

Business professionals and policy makers (local and statewide).

SITUATION

The challenge involves convincing business professionals and policy makers to consider the solution you propose to reduce the health disparity you researched by demonstrating its impact on both specific groups and the community as a whole.

PRODUCT PERFORMANCE AND PURPOSE

Your team needs to focus on one health disparity to research in your community. Critical areas include HIV/AIDS, cancer, overweight/obesity, access to healthcare, infant birth weight, infant mortality, life expectancy, depression, environmental disparities, suicide rate and heart disease. Research the related statistics for at least two different socially disadvantaged groups. Examine its impact on the groups and the community as a whole. *(Note: If it is too difficult to research the statistics in your community, you can research the information in your state or the nation. A good place to start is the state-by-state health disparity reports which can be found at http://www.healthstatus2010.com/owh/disparities/ChartBookData_search.asp.)*

Think about the specific populations you've researched and what could really work. You may need to also research what's been done before. Write a proposal for your solution and share with a relevant organization.

STANDARDS AND CRITERIA FOR SUCCESS

Your proposal needs to include:

- Statistics to support your case about the health disparity
- A clear explanation of the impact to the people and the community
- A workable solution, idea or program to reduce or end the health disparity