3.3 Discussion:

INSTRUCTIONS

Engagement Skills

**Getting Started**

Through analyzing case studies, you can gain a sense of perspective, practice using your critical thinking skills, engaging clients, as well as identifying where in the case study things could have been done differently and why. As a social worker, you need to have excellent critical thinking and analysis skills; those will carry you through the dilemmas you encounter on a regular basis in clinical practice. These also help build character by motivating you daily to make the right choice and demonstrate such qualities as responsibility, fairness, and caring. As a social worker, you will encounter many situations that will be problematic for you: ethical concerns, virtue-related issues, faith-related concerns, conflicts between administrative policy and requirements and your own beliefs, inadequate or improper (or, at least, unhelpful) supervision, and many other dilemmas that will occur during your social work career. Answers to situations are not always straightforward, and sometimes the law will conflict with ethical values and virtuous principles, or even your faith. Selecting a best practice can be a complex, and sometimes challenging, process—there may not be adequate research or supportive information to determine if a practice should even be utilized with a particular client in a specific context, although perhaps it was shown to be effective with a different client or client group in a different context.

**Upon successful completion of this discussion, you will be able to:**

* Integrate input from supervisors and consultants to guide professional judgment and behavior.
* Select best practices throughout the planned change process in a variety of helping situations.
* Formulate a planned change process that demonstrates the importance that diversity and difference makers in clinical micro social work practice.
* Demonstrate character, scholarship, and leadership in becoming a world changer through application to personal life and professional social work practice.
* Demonstrate Christ-like attitudes, values, worldviews, and ethical and professional behavior within advanced clinical practice.



**Resources**

* Textbook: *Decision Cases for Advanced Social Work Practice: Chapter 1, “No Place Like Home”*
* Article: *A Native American Perspective on Spiritual Assessment: The Strengths and Limitations of a Complementary Set of Assessment Tools*
* Handbook: *Best Practice Standards in Social Work Supervision*



**Background Information**

In this assignment, you will gain practice in analyzing a case study to see how you might engage a client in the planned change process with an elderly Native American woman who can no longer stay at a facility. You will apply a social work practice, model, or theory that you believe would have been more appropriate in the case scenario, based on several factors, including the fact that the client is a member of a very vulnerable group: an elderly Native American woman living in poverty.

Additionally, you will reflect on supervision. During your social work career, you are likely to have some excellent supervisors and some who may not seem to be particularly insightful. Here, you will evaluate if the supervisor in the case study responded in an ethical and virtuous manner. How did they engage the client? What did they do well and what could have been done differently? What would you do in a case in which your supervisor was not adequately fulfilling his or her job description in an ethical or virtuous manner? Situations such as these must be decided upon with a case-by-case process; one size will not fit all. But, analyzing this particular case study will give you practice in thinking and writing about what you might have done differently about the supervisor’s response to the social worker.

Finally, there is the issue or question of where a social worker’s responsibility to his or her client begins and ends, as related to the NASW ethical principle of promoting your client’s self-determination. These two concepts—your duty as a social worker and the client’s right to self-determination—may clash at times. Thinking through these two values will enable you to prepare for similar situations in the future.



**Instructions**

1. Review the rubric to make sure you understand the criteria for earning your grade.
2. Read the following case study from your textbook, *Decision Cases for Advanced Social Work Practice*:

Terry A. Wolfer, Lori D. Franklin & Karen A. Gray

* 1. Chapter 1, "[No Place Like Home](https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&AuthType=sso&db=nlebk&AN=663361&site=ehost-live&scope=site&custid=s8876267&ebv=EB&ppid=pp_1)"

1. Read the following:
   1. [*A Native American Perspective on Spiritual Assessment: The Strengths and Limitations of a Complementary Set of Assessment Tools*](https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&AuthType=sso&db=ccm&AN=105204403&site=eds-live&custid=s8876267&profile=edsocls&scope=site) by David R. Hodge and Gordon E. Limbo (2010).
2. Review the handbook, [Best Practice Standards in Social Work Supervision](https://brightspace.indwes.edu/content/enforced/161350-3WI2022SWK-655-01DO;SWK-655-01EK/standards-social-work-supervision.pdf?_&d2lSessionVal=7b3aGF543z6tRt7BBLWBDOhon&ou=161350), by NASW (2013).
3. In a discussion board post, answer the following questions:
   1. How did Sandy engage the client? How might you engage with Lucy in a different manner? In a similar manner?
   2. Where in the planned change process could Sandy have done something differently, and how?
   3. What would be the best practice Sandy could have implemented with the client, Lucy, and why?
   4. What could Sandy have done differently with her supervisor (to get better supervision or direction) and how? Where does Sandy’s responsibility to Lucy end? Does she have an ethical or other responsibility to ensure that Lucy doesn’t live in her car? Where does Lucy’s right to self-determination begin and end?

NOTE:

PLEASE USE BOTH RESOURCES PROVIDED FOR REFERENCES.